



MONEY MATTERS

Free supplement to help you beat the crunch



HUGE SUM TO REPAIR LEAS LIFT

SHEPWAY council could face a bill of almost £300,000 if it is forced to pay for repairs to the Leas Lift, having just given up its lease.

The historic seaside attraction closed for the foreseeable future on Tuesday last week, despite huge public protest, amid claims that it would cost too much to run.

According to the council, the lift cost £90,000 per year to keep operating –

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

but only brought in £30,000 in revenue, prompting the authority's Cabinet not to renew its agreement with Radnor Estate, which owns the site.

However, any attempts to bring the lift back into service are dependant on negotiations between the two parties over who pays for essential repairs dating back more than 30 years.

A Shepway council spokesman

confirmed the exact figure earmarked for dilapidation claims was £294,000 but that this was "not written in stone" and any amount claimed by the estate would be automatically contested.

Charles Evans, of Smith-Woolley and Perry, who are representing the estate, said a financial settlement with the council was being waited on.

He said he had received "one or two" enquiries from people interested in running the lift but was waiting to see

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



RUNNER AIMS TO GET KIDS MOVING

Hundreds of people turned up in Hawkinge on Sunday to see Olympic gold-medallist Linford Christie, pictured here with fan Abigail Cope.

The 100m runner, who won in Barcelona in 1992, was joined by fellow Olympian and relay winner Darren Campbell to promote the national Street Athletics roadshow, which aims to get youngsters of all abilities involved. Mr Christie said: "We just want to get as many kids taking part in athletics as possible. It will be great for them."

The show took place in the Lidl car park and hundreds of children aged from four to 18 took part in a variety of running events.

Ruby Sutton, 15, went along to see the Olympic star. She said: "It was great fun and I'm sure lots of those taking part will be inspired to go on to do more." More details at www.streetathletics.co.uk



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GUILTY: From left, Glen Johnson (9 years), Harvon Davies (9 years), Josiah Johnson (9 years), Ronnie Johnson (8 years) and Kym Farid (9 years)

Dinghy drug-smugglers sentenced to 44 years

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A GANG of drug-smugglers has been handed a combined sentence of 44 years for trafficking cocaine valued at £1.5 million on to Hythe beach using an inflatable speedboat.

The five men were arrested after a dramatic confrontation with police in the early hours of September 13 last year which saw some of them try to escape by swimming out to sea. They were sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court on Wednesday.

Ring-leader Glen Johnson, 32, a professional fighter from Hampshire who, the court heard, had a string of 17 previous convictions for crimes including kidnap, was sentenced to nine years for conspiring to supply controlled drugs.

Guilty

His brother Ronnie Johnson, 21, a floor-fitter also from Hampshire, was given eight years for the same offence.

Kym Farid, 30, unemployed and from Surrey, and Harvon Davies, 24, from Croydon, both received nine-year prison sentences for their crime.

Josiah Johnson, 21, a cousin of the Johnson brothers from Hampshire, was the only gang member to plead not guilty – but he was found guilty and also given a nine-year sentence.

The investigation was sparked after coastguards reported that there were two people trying to paddle an inflatable boat across the Channel in August 2008.

French police recovered the boat and handed the two men, the Johnson brothers, over to officers at Dover docks. They claimed they had been drinking alcohol before deciding to



THE BOAT: Inflatable dinghy used by the gang to smuggle cocaine valued at £1.5 million

take the boat out to sea but were swept into the busy shipping lane.

Then on September 13 at 4am, police were called to Hythe beach after reports that an inflatable boat had come ashore.

Glen Johnson, who was seen swimming in the sea after getting rid of a black dry-suit, was arrested, along with his brother Ronnie, who was also in a dry-suit and hiding behind some rocks on the beach.

Their cousin Josiah was arrested after he was spotted hiding in the water near some rocks and Farid was running along the beach at the time.

The driver of a car that officers saw at the waterfront tried to escape but was later stopped. Police found a black holdall with 12 packages wrapped in brown tape and a smaller cylinder packer containing almost 13kg of cocaine.

Detective Inspector Eddie Fox, from the serious organised crime unit, which led the investigation, said: "Significantly, the five men sentenced today were part of a significant organised crime group that was probably one of the most prolific gangs involved in

this type of criminality. Throughout the investigation they lied and were uncooperative when interviewed."

"In dismantling this group and bringing these men to justice, we have probably saved lives."

"Drug-trafficking fuels all sorts of criminality and has a devastating effect on the lives of already vulnerable people."

"This sentence sends a clear message to anyone involved in this type of crime. Kent Police is determined to prosecute offenders and strip them of their assets."

He said the investigation had taken him and his team of detectives across Kent, Hampshire, Surrey, London, Middlesex, Essex and northern France.

As he sentenced the gang, Recorder Peter Judge Morgan said: "You all played a part in a sophisticated operation."

"You were caught red-handed and some of you tried to escape by swimming in the sea."

"The offence is so serious only an immediate sentence of imprisonment is justified."

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Airport chiefs' fury at leak of planning views

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

LYDD airport bosses have said they are "stunned" and "angered" by Shepway council officers' recommendation to reject their runway extension and new terminal plans.

The official report was prepared for councillors ahead of the crucial planning meeting which was due to be held tomorrow (Thursday) but has been delayed by two months after news of its contents was leaked.

Lawyers acting for the airport intervened after it became clear that Shepway planning officials had recommended rejecting the long-running application due to the effects on nature habitats and disruption from aircraft noise.

Conclusions

An ecological expert hired by the airport also said the reasons on which the 155-page report based its conclusions were "absurd" and said wildlife and bird species at the site would not be affected.

Lydd airport managing director Cliff Spink said: "Having read the report produced by the officers I am stunned and more than a little angered by their conclusions."

"I hope that moving the date of the meeting back to September will give Shepway councillors more time to study the report and realise the airport development will not be detrimental to the environment."

Dr Mark McLellan, an ecological adviser with the airport, said there were only "three or four"

small-scale issues which divided the council and themselves.

He said: "The few ecological arguments remaining against the airport's plans are now wafer-thin, and I vigorously disagree with the conclusions of the council's ecological advisers that the integrity of European wildlife sites at and near to the airport would be affected.

"The council is suggesting that the loss of a tiny area of one of these sites – a mere 0.56 per cent – is a reason to refuse.

"This would be understandable if the area in question was important wildlife habitat, but it isn't – it is just an arable field."

He said plantlife near the runway would not be affected, contrary to the report's conclusions, and that important bird species living nearby would simply get used to the noise of the jet engines.

The airport could also keep certain birds away from the runway areas without affecting those at nearby reserves, he said.

Louise Barton, of anti-expansion group LAAG, said the airport was buying for time.

"Lydd wanted this determined as quickly as possible, but they didn't hand over all the information for a long time – now they have asked for a delay," she said.

"It's a strong judgment by the officers. Either the airport needs to produce new evidence which challenges the report's findings or the councillors overrule the recommendations.

"We knew we had a good case in law – it will be interesting to see what happens."

Lydd airport submitted its two applications for a 444-metre runway extension and a new 500,000-passenger terminal in December 2006. The planning meeting will now take place on Wednesday September 23, at Civic Centre.



UP IN THE AIR: Planning meeting over future of Lydd airport has been delayed for two months after details of report were leaked

Council attitude to lift is blasted

FROM FRONT PAGE

the proposals in black-and-white.

Caroline Chambers, of the Channel Chamber of Commerce, which set up an online campaign to keep the lift running, said it was no surprise the council was facing such a large bill.

"The attitude of the council has been to assess and value the lift and then just wash their hands of it," she said.

"If they'd bothered to do their own advertising and promotion they could have kept it going – instead they've just sat back for the last five years."

"It's simple – if you agree to lease a property from someone you agree to return it in the condition in which you received it."

Meanwhile, Grand Hotel owner Michael Stanier said he had received backing from Eurotunnel and others to start the lift up again.

Among his proposals are to rebuild and possibly extend the bottom lift house, with a park-and-ride scheme to encourage shoppers and possibly even building a pier out to the water.

He said: "I've been at the Grand 36 years and the lift's a wonderful piece of history – it would be good for the town if was back up and running."

"It's no exaggeration to say it could turn Folkestone's waterfront into a world-class asset."

Residents fight back over plans for 1,100 homes near village

VILLAGERS in Sellindge have vowed to fight against the latest housing proposals put forward by Shepway council.

At a meeting of the Sellindge and District Residents Association (SANDRA) held in the village hall on Thursday last week, residents discussed the best way forward for the village.

Last week the council held an exhibition outlining areas where housing could be built. Shepway, like many local councils in the South East, has to meet targets for housing set out by Government.

But Sellindge residents say the proposals to build 1,100 homes at village sites in the area would totally destroy their character.

The plans are part of the council's Preferred Options Consultation showing possible housing sites available up until 2026.

Residents from Lympne and Stanford who are also affected by the outline housing projects attended the meeting.

Ronald Lello, who chaired the discussion, said: "We want to ensure changes to our villages are for the better, rather than just dumping down homes to fulfil housing targets."

Many people at the meeting were worried that the housing development was part of a long-term strategy to develop areas around the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and were worried that it would lead to commuter dormitories taking advantage of the new high-speed trains to London from Ashford.

One resident at the meeting described the housing as "payback for Government for all the money that has been spent on infrastructure such as the High Speed 1 rail track".

Although some residents at the meeting were totally opposed to any new housing, the general mood was that some new homes would have to be accommodated but not in the large housing developments of 300 or 400 hundred as outlined in the council's proposals.

Billionaire denies plans for harbour will not go ahead

ROGER DE HAAN has denied rumours that Folkestone harbour is up for sale and the much-touted redevelopment is under threat, despite a series of delays.

The statement comes after a proposed extension of the Folkestone Conservation Area, which would have included the harbour and Creative Quarter, was suspended pending a review by Shepway council.

The area is the centrepiece of long-held plans by the Folkestone Harbour Company, backed by former Saga boss Mr De Haan, to build a university campus, ice-rink, exhibition area, fast ferry port and 1,400 homes.

However, the economic downturn has forced a postponement of the so-called master-plan, drawn up by respected architects Foster and Partners, who also designed the Folkestone Academy.

Committed

The online link to the master-plan also seems to have been removed from Folkestone Harbour Company's website.

Mr De Haan's spokesman Peter Bettley said: "The harbour is not for sale. In terms of the master-plan, as a life-long resident of Folkestone, Roger De Haan remains fully committed to the project.

"His team is working with planning and development specialists to find ways in which benefits that were described in the master-plan can be phased or otherwise made deliverable in this difficult economic climate."

He also said the closure of the railway viaduct, central to the proposed redevelopment, would continue as planned:

"We continue to consult on environmental and strategic planning issues, and the railway closure process is taking its course – this route will be essential to any future development on the seafront and harbour site since road access to the area is quite inadequate."

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Police call for witnesses who saw man attacked**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an assault in Cheriton last weekend left a 51-year-old man with serious injuries.

Passers-by found him in Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone, at 1am on Saturday, June 27. He is currently in a stable condition.

It is believed he was assaulted in the Firs Club in Firs Lane, Cheriton at midnight.

Three men aged 55, 33 and 27 have been arrested on suspicion of assault and bailed.

Police would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the assault or who saw the man walking to Shaftesbury Avenue.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant James Ross of the Area Major Enquiry Team on 01303 850055.

Alternatively, call Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Sneak a peak at theatre productions in progress

FOUR Kent-based theatre companies will be putting on performances for audiences at Quarterhouse in Folkestone tonight.

The Work-In-Progress evening gives a preview of each show at a different stage of development and the companies are keen to involve people in completing them.

Extracts of each show will be performed and afterwards the audience will be invited to offer their feedback and comments.

Among them will be The Outsiders, a story about survival, and 'Steffin', about Margarette Steffin, one of Berthold Brecht's many lovers and collaborators.

Others include travelling tale Poco Loco and musical extravaganza, Sporadical. Tickets are £5, starting at 7.30pm.

Work-in-Progress is a partnership between the Creative Foundation and the Performing Arts Network Kent. For more information go to www.panek.org.uk.

Charge over alleged sexual assault on bus

A MAN has been charged after he was arrested for allegedly indecently touching an 18-year-old woman on a bus last week.

Irving Slater, 51, of Canterbury Road in Etchinghill, was charged with sexual assault after the alleged incident on the number 17 bus between Lyminge and Folkestone on Tuesday June 23.

He appeared at Folkestone Magistrates Court on Friday, 26 June and remanded in custody. A committal hearing will be held on Friday, July 3.

Town pays tribute to Canadian WWI heroes

■ BY NICK AMES AND JAMES ALEXANDRE

SERVICEMEN and ex-members of the Armed Forces, civic dignitaries and the town's schoolchildren, gathered together on Wednesday to remember the sacrifice of Canadian soldiers in World War One.

They gathered to lay flowers on the graves of the 296 Canadian servicemen who are buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery and mark Folkestone association with the men who marched under the maple leaf banner.

The commemoration honours a pledge made by the town that their contribution to the conflict of 1914-18 will never be forgotten.

It is marked each year on Canada's national day and was attended by representatives of the country's high commission as well as veteran's groups.

Two years ago the country recognised Folkestone's years of uninterrupted tributes with a framed citation and medal presented to the then mayor Peter Gane.

Guest at this year's event was Major General Joe Hincke, who represented his country.

"It is a proud day for us and we thank Folkestone for the way its people have kept these memories alive," he said.

Canada was one of the first countries to heed the call for help by Britain at the outbreak of the war with the Kaiser's Germany and its allies – the Ottoman Empire of Turkey and



the Austro-Hungarian Empire. By February 1915 a total of 40,000 troops from across the north Atlantic were training in the Folkestone area.

Trenches were dug next to the site of Sandling Station and soldiers practiced going "over the top" – or charging the enemy positions.

Such was the demand for troops a unit could be training in Folkestone one day and under enemy fire in Flanders 24 hours later.

There were also rest camps in the area and the Machine Gun School which were served by the Shorncliffe Military Hospital – later No. 9 Canadian General – the Moore Barracks Military Hospital – later No. 11 Canadian General – and other medical facilities.

On three occasions Canadian soldiers were killed during air raids on the base.

The Remembrance Service is in commemoration of those who lost their lives in whatever field of conflict.

Chairman of Shepway council, Susan Carey, said: "The day is especially dear to me as there is a little known memorial to the Canadians in my ward, near to Stone Farm."

Mayor of Folkestone, Janet Andrews, spoke to the children at the event.

She said: "Look at the gravestones and note their ages. These soldiers left their families never to return. Some families never got the chance to visit the graves so every year we remember them."

She explained how the pledge to remember those who lost their lives came about.

REMEMBRANCE: The service at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery (top); troops dig in at Vimy (above left) and a young Canadian's gravestone (above)

"Reginald Wood was mayor in 1927 and he said as far as Folkestone is concerned and as long as it is in the power of human beings to remember them that should be done," she said.

Canada declared war on Germany and its allies on August 5, 1914, with widespread support for involvement among its population.

During the fighting, 67,000 Canadian soldiers were killed and another 173,000 wounded.

Large scale encounters with the enemy such as Vimy Ridge, the Second Battle of Passchendaele and the Battle of the Somme are still remembered today as part of the founding of the country's identity and culture.

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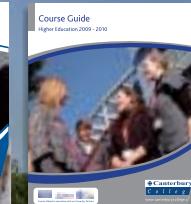
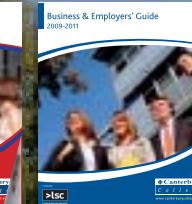
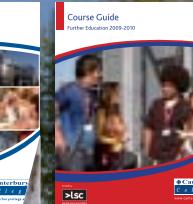
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Outstanding designs rewarded

TWO of the district's buildings have been recognised for their outstanding design by a prestigious awards body.

The Royal Institute of British Architects highlighted Quarterhouse in Tontine Street, Folkestone (pictured left) and a small holiday house in Dungeness (pictured right) as deserving of its citations for the South East region.

The assessors said Quarterhouse, the town's new performing arts centre which opened earlier this year, was "the centrepiece of a brave and exciting regeneration project." The building was a bold icon and a beacon which lit up the street scene, and

the spaces inside were simple, practical and well-organised.

The privately-owned Dungeness holiday home was described as "an innovative design in a unique location".

The four-roomed timber shelter is built out of an existing railway carriage, with a galley kitchen and two bedrooms each with its own sheltered courtyard, overlooking the sea.

A large sliding wall opens up and expands the living space, leading to a deck and the pebbles of the beach, neighbouring with single-story shacks, lighthouses and the nuclear power station.

Inquest's verdict on Gurkha killed by roadside bomb

■ BY NICK AMES

AN INQUEST has returned a verdict of unlawful killing on a Gurkha who died in Afghanistan after the armoured vehicle he was travelling in hit a roadside bomb.

Colour Sgt Krishnabhadur Dura was in a convoy of five Warriors returning from a stake-out of Taliban forces.

They were all on their way back to base when the tragedy took place last November.

His armoured vehicle – the fourth in the column – is believed to have drifted to the left of tracks of the preceding one as it crossed a system of irrigated fields.

This is thought to have resulted in the detonating of the improvised explosive device – a favourite weapon of insurgent fighters.

Wiltshire Coroner David Ridley recorded a verdict of unlawful killing at the hearing, which took place last week in Trowbridge Town Hall.

Colour Sgt Dura, from Canterbury, was travelling in the Musa Q'ala district of Helmand province.

The explosion blew the underside of the Warrior upwards, wrecked equipment inside and threw its wheels 300 metres away, the coroner was told.

Warrant Officer Benjamin Kelly, commanding the vehicle behind, said that in the rear passenger area of the stricken Warrior he found one soldier screaming with injuries to his legs and another - identified Colour Sgt Dura – in a quiet and still condition.

Colour Sgt Dura was formally certified dead en route to the British Army headquarters at Camp Bastion.

Lance Bombardier Luke Jackson, driver of the vehicle, told the inquest that it hit the



EXPLOSION: Colour Sgt Krishna Dura died when his Warrior armoured vehicle hit an improvised explosive device

explosive as it crossed an irrigation system.

"As we crossed, the tracks from the vehicles in front weren't visible. That's when we were broached (hit). The Warrior immediately came to a standstill," he said.

Colour Sgt Dura, of 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, which are based at Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone, was a 36-year-old father-of-two from Lamjung District, western Nepal.

He was highly rated in his chosen role and regarded as one of the Army's best snipers.

Colour Sgt Dura was on his third tour of Afghanistan when he was killed after joining up 1992 and serving on operations in Bosnia, East Timor and twice in Sierra Leone.

His commanding officer, Lt Col Chris Darby, described Colour Sgt Dura as "an exceptional soldier, a gifted leader and consummate professional."

Black pioneer Tull's exhibition returns

THE Walter Tull Exhibition makes a homecoming return to Folkestone today, the birthplace of the war hero who became the British Army's first black officer.

It features a showcase of the soldier's life, who also became the first professional outfield footballer when he signed for Tottenham Hotspur, with the chance to discover his local connections.

Tull was born in April 1888 and attended Mundella primary school in Black Bull Road, before playing for Spurs on a wage of £4 a week.

When World War One broke out, he volunteered as a private soldier and rose up the ranks and was commended by top brass for his "gallantry and coolness". He died in action in 1918, just a few months before the war finished.

The nationwide tour has already visited the National Army Museum in London, the National Football Museum in Preston and the Scottish Football Museum in Glasgow.

Last month the exhibition was in Dover, as part of the Dover War Memorial Project, where Tull's mother was born and where his sisters and step-parents lived for years after his death.

However, it was overshadowed when a collection box was stolen, a display piece was vandalised and a racist comment left in the visitor's book.

A number of new panels will be on display



SHOWCASE: Exhibition pays homage to Walter Tull

when the exhibition opens at The Grand hotel on the Leas today (Wednesday), including where people can visit places in the town most closely associated with Tull and his family.

The opening ceremony takes place in the hotel's Palm Court at 10.15am, and the exhibition runs until July 31. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Visit www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk for more details.

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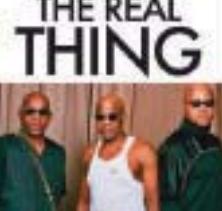
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Saturday 18th
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Saturday 25th
In Dreams

featuring music from Roy Orbison
Friday 31st
The Real Thing

AUGUST 2009

Sunday 2nd
Margate Carnival Dance

SATURDAY 8th

Joe Pasquale

12th Aug - 11th Sept
"Razzmatazz"

Girling Productions Summer Show

Saturday 15th
Michael McIntyre

Saturday 22nd
Sister Sledge

SEPTEMBER 2009

Tuesday 1st
Paul Potts in Concert

Saturday 5th
Mr Wonderful

Sunday 13th
Chaz 'n' Dave

Friday 18th
Mandy Winters
- The Concert

Saturday 19th
Disco Inferno 13

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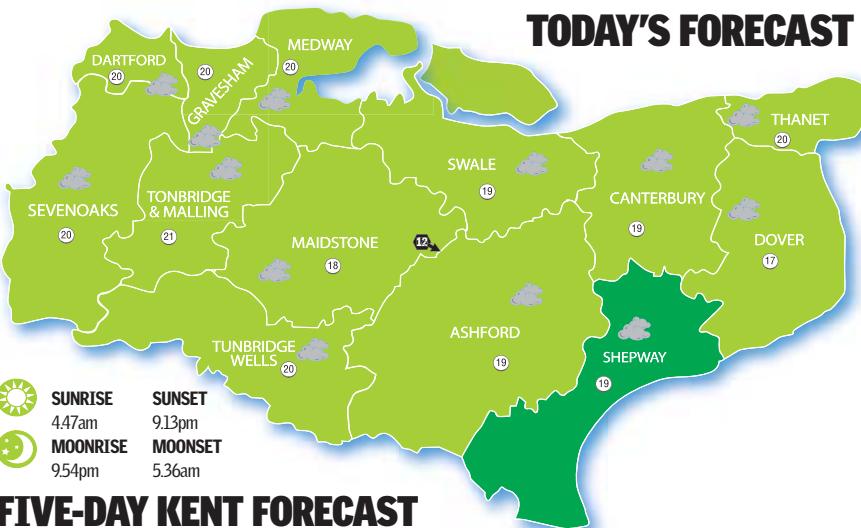


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| Canterbury | 20°C | 20°C | 20°C | 19°C | 20°C | Maidstone | 19°C | 21°C | 20°C | 19°C | 20°C |
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| Dartford | 20°C | 21°C | 20°C | 19°C | 20°C | Rochester | 19°C | 20°C | 19°C | 18°C | 20°C |
| Dover | 18°C | 19°C | 18°C | 18°C | 19°C | Sevenoaks | 18°C | 19°C | 18°C | 18°C | 19°C |
| Faversham | 19°C | 20°C | 19°C | 18°C | 20°C | Sittingbourne | 19°C | 20°C | 19°C | 18°C | 20°C |
| Folkestone | 18°C | 19°C | 18°C | 18°C | 19°C | Tonbridge | 19°C | 20°C | 20°C | 19°C | 20°C |
| Gillingham | 19°C | 20°C | 19°C | 18°C | 20°C | Tun Wells | 19°C | 20°C | 20°C | 19°C | 20°C |

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------|------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 4:00pm | 5.7m |
| | Sunday | 4:32pm | 5.7m |
| Dover | Saturday | 2:23pm | 6.4m |
| | Sunday | 2:54pm | 6.3m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 2:13pm | 7.3m |
| | Sunday | 2:45pm | 7.3m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 2:53pm | 4.8m |
| | Sunday | 3:24pm | 4.8m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 3:50pm | 5.5m |
| | Sunday | 4:22pm | 5.4m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 3:46pm | 5.1m |
| | Sunday | 4:16pm | 5.0m |

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 22°C | Madrid | 29°C |
| Athens | 26°C | New York | 24°C |
| Barcelona | 28°C | Paris | 23°C |
| Beijing | 26°C | Rome | 28°C |
| Bombay | 29°C | Sydney | 15°C |
| Cape Town | 16°C | Tenerife | 27°C |
| Cardiff | 16°C | Tokyo | 24°C |
| Gibraltar | 27°C | Vancouver | 21°C |
| Hong Kong | 31°C | Warsaw | 24°C |
| Las Palmas | 27°C | Wellington | 9°C |

Nursery volunteer David awarded for hard work

A FOLKESTONE pre-school volunteer has been recognised with for his contributions.

David Gilbert was chosen from among a hundred nominations to win the 'Outstanding volunteer at a pre-school or nursery' category at a ceremony in London.

Hosted by the Pre-school Learning Alliance, the awards were established to acknowledge and celebrate the work of over 40,000 volunteers who give up their valuable time to support children, families and the wider community.

Judges chose David as the winner after praise from colleagues about his dedication and support to the First Learners Nursery in Cheriton.

And the band played on in Hythe to say thank you

THE Salvation Army band and choir from the Hague in Holland paraded through Hythe and performed two open-air concerts to the joy of spectators last month.

The day began with a parade along the High Street on the morning of Saturday, June 20, followed by a short concert.

This was followed by a free two-hour concert later on Saturday and Sunday 21 in Stade Street. An indoor concert was also held at Brockhill Performing Arts College in Saltwood on Saturday night. Organiser Richard Carroll, said: "The concerts are a way of The Salvation Army saying 'thank you' to the people of Hythe."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

JOHN PARRY



Q & A

James Alexandre talks to the owner of Folkestone gift shop Moda about how he came across the town, his success in winning a top industry award, and how the fast rail link means things 'can only get better'

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I'm 42 and have a partner of 22 years. I don't like to rush into things. We have two wonderful children called Tom and Jac, who are eight and six. We are a close family and like to spend time together.

Q How did Moda first come about?

A Moda has evolved over the last two years – when we first opened we sold handmade tiles and ceramics and I slowly introduced jewellery and gifts, which proved to be successful. My partner Ella is also a buyer for the Royal Academy of Arts shop in London, so it made sense to move the business into gifts.

Q What are the most popular items you stock?

A We sell a broad range of items, from hand-made gifts to designer jewellery and bags, including Orla Kiely. We also sell Kent produce, including award-winning jam and fudge. The sales seem to be consistent across all the ranges, so for us this is a good sign and shows we are offering the right balance of products for a broad range of customers.

Q What do you think of the Creative Quarter and the regeneration efforts in Folkestone?

A I think that the Creative Quarter is slowly but surely developing into a viable com-

mercial operation. It is going to take time for businesses to develop as it is not easy, especially in the current climate.

It takes a lot of commitment both personally and financially and I applaud all of the small businesses in the Creative Quarter for giving it a go.

The opening of Quarterhouse will inevitably increase footfall and hopefully things will get easier. After two years there are exciting times ahead. There has been a lot of work and effort from the Creative Foundation, Shepway council, the county council, small businesses, local Press and, most importantly, the people of Folkestone who visit and support the Quarter.

Q Tell us what it's like being recognised at the Progressive Gifts and Home awards

A We are very excited as we know that to get this far is an achievement. A lot of very good independent gift shops have applied over many years without success.

I remember looking at the finalists last year and thinking it would be great to be in that position. It feels great, as with anything that comes after hard work and determination.

Q How did you discover Folkestone and what do you see for the future of the district?

A To be honest, it was a case of putting a pin on a map and seeing where it put us. It was important for us to be close to London as Ella commutes and I wouldn't have been happy to be too far away from the city. We both knew

immediately that Folkestone could be the place for us. This has proved right, the children love it here and we are very glad we made the move. Folkestone is a great place and can only get better with the fast train link and, of course, the regeneration of the Creative Quarter and harbour.

Q As a businessman, what do you think of the commercial and social life of Shepway?

A It is a shame to see so many shops and businesses closing down at the moment, but this is taking place across the country. The impact on a town like Folkestone can be hard, but we will hopefully get through this. For a small town, I think there are a good number of places to eat and drink.

Q Where can people find out about you, your shop and what you sell?

A At the moment we are only selling via the shop, but we are currently working on a website so we can sell online.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time when you're not working?

A When I can, I like to spend time with friends talking about everything and anything, preferably with a roll-up and a beer.

I also love London, either visiting galleries or pubs, or just walking around soaking up the atmosphere. I've visited a lot of cities and for me it's up there with the best, I never tire of it.

CROSSKEYS 
COACHES



2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

**Boulogne &
Le Touquet**
Friday 11th –
Saturday 12th September
**£74 Per Person,
Bed & Breakfast**

| July | | |
|-------------|---|--------|
| Fri 10th | Teapot Island | £12.50 |
| Tue 14th | Tenterden & Chapel Down Vineyard | £21.00 |
| Thurs 16th | Sluis | £33.00 |
| Sun 19th | Whitstable Oyster Festival | £9.50 |
| Mon 20th | St Omer by Ferry | £23.00 |
| Wed 22nd | Cambridge & Sightseeing Tour | £28.00 |
| Wed 22nd | Lullingstone Castle and Lavender Farm | £26.00 |
| Sat 25th | Le Touquet by Ferry | £24.00 |
| Sun 26th | Drusillas | £25.00 |
| Thurs 30th | Boulogne | £23.00 |
| Fri 31st | Chessington World Of Adventures, Zoo & Sealife Centre | £35.00 |

| August (cont...) | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| Tue 18th | Portsmouth | £18.50 |
| Thu 20th | Legoland | £31.50 |
| Sat 22nd | Wembley Stadium Tour | £33.00 |
| Sat 22nd | Calais & Cite Europe | £19.00 |
| Mon 24th | Bluewater or Lakeside | £16.50 |
| Thu 27th | Boulogne | £23.00 |
| Fri 28th | Thorpe Park | £39.00 |
| Sat 29th | Brussels | £31.00 |
| Sun 30th | Diggerland | £23.00 |
| Mon 31st | Walking With Dinosaurs The Arena Spectacular | £50.00 |

| September | | |
|------------------|--|--------|
| Wed 2nd | Buckingham Palace | £33.00 |
| Sat 5th | Ostend | £24.00 |
| Sun 6th | Duxford Air Show | £39.00 |
| Mon 7th | Afternoon Cite Europe | £13.00 |
| Thu 10th | BBC Television Tour | £23.50 |
| Fri 11th | Boulogne and Le Touquet (2 Days 1 Night) | £74.00 |
| Sat 12th | Le Touquet | £24.50 |
| Mon 13th | Walpole Museum & Shell Grotto | £14.50 |
| Wed 15th | Arras | £27.00 |
| Fri 17th | Boulogne | £23.00 |

**Warners
Thoresby Hall**
Monday 14th –
Friday 18th September
**£395 Per Person,
Half Board**

| August | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Mon 3rd | Afternoon Cite Europe | £13.00 |
| Tue 4th | Eagle Heights Wildlife Park | £17.50 |
| Thurs 6th | Boulogne by Ferry | £23.00 |
| Sat 8th | Disneyland Paris | £65.00 |
| Sun 9th | Borde Hill Gardens | £21.00 |
| Mon 10th | Ghent | £29.00 |
| Wed 12th | London Eye & Thames Cruise | £36.00 |
| Fri 14th | Madame Tussauds | £35.00 |
| Sun 16th | Hever Castle | £23.00 |

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Friday 4th December
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Adults and children see who can build the fastest box cart. Search 'cart'



Paul Clark talks about the effect of the high-speed rail link in Kent. Search 'rail'



Stour Music Festival celebrates early classical music. Search 'music'



Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence perform a rhumba. Search 'Strictly'



Dave Lee's celebrity golf day will raise cash for charity. Search 'Lee'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Star's art shoots through museum

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

STUFFED animals flying out of a Victorian contraption and a Siamese serpent are among the exhibits in a surreal show by comedian Vic Reeves.

In The Natural History of Kent and Sussex Through My Binoculars, which opened yesterday at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, the purveyor of the bizarre is leaving the meaning of it all up to viewers.

Reeves, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, with his wife Nancy Sorrell and their twins, has created six new paintings for the show that he has combined with objects and artefacts from the museum's collection.

Asked whether the pictures were produced in response to what he found when rifling through the museum's wide-ranging archives, he said: "It was a bit of both, after I did the pictures I picked some other things as well."

"I'm putting up shelves under each painting and there will be objects that will link directly or indirectly with the painting."

"People can make their own links. People spend a lot of time wanting to be told what to think about something. I'm assuming people will want to know what it is all about, but my lips are keeping firmly shut."

The 50 year old is probably most famous for Shooting Stars, the BBC TV comedy quiz show

he presented along with Bob Mortimer in the 1990s and which is due to make a comeback this August.

But the keen birdwatcher and prolific artist – he is publishing a book filled with 260 of his illustrations later this year – has exhibited his paintings and drawings at several commercial galleries.

Reeves, who said his artistic life has worked alongside his comedy throughout his career, described some of the objects he chose.

"I suppose I'm fond of stuffed animals and birds, as well as the live ones," he said. "All that Victorians, they would stuff anything they saw... I've always been interested in insects in museums since I was young. That was the first thing I looked for."

Transformation

As he spoke to KOS Media this week Reeves was busy setting up the show. He said: "They (the stuffed animals) are all flying out of a Victorian bath chair."

"They hit the ground and turn into humming birds that spread out coming together. I was working out how it would fit together nine months ago and now I'm putting it all into place."

Asked what kind of reaction he wanted, he said: "Probably tearing people away from the obvious. It'll be interesting to see."

Reeves remained tight-lipped about his pictures and what they might mean.

Quizzed over the use of stormy clouds and threatening skies, he said: "I got some new acrylic sprays and I was messing about with it

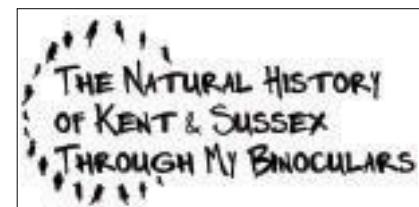


BE INSPIRED: Comedian Vic Reeves wants visitors to his exhibition to make their own minds up about his work

and I and thought it made nice clouds and I've got a bit of a thing about clouds. One of the great things about art is that you can see whatever you want to see and think whatever you want about it."

One painting shows a serpent joined in the middle with two heads with two sets of human eyes and lips. The work was inspired by an object in the museum's collection.

He said: "It [the show] is quite random, there is nothing particularly that ties it, but I suppose the general theme could be ways of looking at things."



Reeves came straight to the museum after filming Shooting Stars and said it was not that big a leap in the type of material he was dealing with.

Is he hoping to attract a different and perhaps younger audience to the museum? He added: "I don't know who'll see it, museum goers, tourists..."

"There was a lady outside this morning who said, 'can I bring my kids or is it adult themed' and I said there is nothing particularly adult or dodgy."

The show will run until Saturday, August 29.

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What to do and see

Thinking of where to take the kids during the summer holidays? Here are a few ideas all within one hours' drive of Calais

Nausicaä - France's National Sea Discovery Centre in Boulogne-sur-Mer is more than just an Aquarium. Under-water exploration, special effects and spectacular attractions take the visitor on a journey to the heart of the oceans. In 2008, the National Sea Centre launched NAUSICAÄ III. The centre is unique providing real-time information about our Blue Planet and giving visitors an

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Le Touquet: With miles of wide sandy golden beaches you have virtually every conceivable outdoor activity catered for including sand yachting on one of the longest beaches in Northern France. **Aqualud waterpark.** The biggest amusement water park in Northern France, located on the French coast "Côte d'Opale" at Le Touquet.

St. Omer Area: The Flemish town of Saint-Omer stands on a hillside on the edge of the River Aa marshes, less than 30 miles from Calais. The large square in the town holds a weekly market on Saturday mornings, selling fresh local produce from the farms on the marshes. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town and a boat trip is an ideal way of seeing the 13th Century Abbey, houses and remarkable open countryside. Or you can visit the fantastic underground World War 2 museum nearby at La Coupole, the site of the V2 rocket in Helfaut and the Eperlecques Bunker are two of the great relics of the Second World War in Europe, that can be visited now as History and Remembrance Centres.

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|--|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
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| <hr/> | | | | |
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Flavour of summer is right on your doorstep

WITH the arrival of summer sunshine, I am eating more salads, and am thrilled that the British tomato season is upon us.

Although tomatoes are available throughout the year, it is only in recent weeks that local varieties have ripened and there really is no comparison between the flavourless tomatoes available during winter and the sweet, tangy and delicious British varieties.

If you're a gardener your tomato plants should be doing well and you'll soon see the first signs of flowers or fruit. If not, you need to track down some local Kentish tomatoes.

Those provided by www.foodforkent.co.uk are grown by Brian and Lorraine Watts, who run the Leonard Ironside nursery at Farthing Common, Lyminge, which I visited last month.

Brian has been growing tomatoes since 1974, and it was fascinating to find out what is involved.

His nursery comprises four, one-acre glasshouses, containing about 35,000 tomato plants. Brian currently grows 10 different varieties, ranging from traditional vine and plum to cherry and beef tomatoes. The tomato seedlings are planted in November in what looks like giant grow bags filled with coir, which is shredded coconut husk – a much more environmentally-sound choice than traditional peat.

In the first part of a regular series of articles, healthy-eating expert ABBY DYSON – who writes about cooking and seasonal, healthy food at www.eattherightstuff.com – discusses her recent visit to the county to experience the delights of Kentish tomatoes.



Brian explained how the environment in the glasshouses is carefully monitored to create optimum growing conditions.

The temperature is varied depending on how bright a day it is – on sunny days the plants grow fast and need extra warmth, whereas on an overcast day less heat is required as they are growing more slowly.

Just as important is keeping the glasshouses well ventilated, so that disease, which flourishes in warm damp environments, is kept at bay and condensation doesn't form which might cause blemishes on the tomatoes. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of

the heating system, is pumped into the glasshouses to encourage better growth.

One of the most interesting things about visiting the nursery was learning about the bugs and bees which Brian deploys to help him grow the tomatoes.

Each glasshouse contains a number of bee hives housing bumble bees that pollinate the tomatoes.

This is a far cry from the techniques used in yesteryear, which saw farmers use a vibrating metal rod to "tickle" each flower so that the pollen was dislodged.

The bees are introduced when the first

flowers appear – usually just after Christmas – and continue their work until the end of the growing season in the autumn.

Brian also uses predator insects. The plants are regularly inspected by white-coated scientists and any sign of pests is noted. Predator insects are then introduced which target and eliminate these pests.

It's a wonderful example of working with Mother Nature and as a result of this approach Brian's tomatoes are grown without the use of pesticides, fungicides or insecticides.

Each glasshouse contains 500 rows of tomatoes and from March, when the plants start producing fruit – it takes eight weeks from pollination to a tomato being ready to pick – each row is picked every other day, six days a week.

The tomatoes are put straight into the boxes in which they are sold so that they are handled as little as possible.

Unusually, they are not put into cold storage but go straight to the people who are buying them so that the time between picking and selling is kept short.

The result is flavoursome Kentish tomatoes which are well worth tracking down.



Abby's double tomato and courgette pasta

(Serves 2)

Pasta for two – penne works well

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 courgettes, cut into discs

1 tablespoon of sun-dried tomatoes, softened in boiling water and cut into thin strips

Juice of half a lemon

15-20 cherry tomatoes, halved

A handful of basil leaves, shredded

1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese, to serve

Put the pasta on to cook.

Fry the garlic in olive oil and when you start to smell it, add the courgette.

Turn the heat up and cook, stirring regularly, until the courgette begins to soften. Keep the heat high and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice and cook for a more few minutes.

When the courgette is sufficiently cooked add the cherry tomatoes, basil and pine nuts.

Remove from the heat, mix with the pasta and serve with parmesan shavings.

For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy eating food blog www.eattherightstuff.com



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| Norfolk BB | £369 | £389 | £419 | £459 |
| Runnymede Court | £329 | £359 | £389 | £399 |
| Flight Only | £119 | £129 | £159 | £189 |

Accommodation 15th Aug 22nd Aug 29th Aug 5th Sep

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Villa Isis BB | £369 | £319 | £299 | £379 |
| Mayfair BB | £569 | £519 | £519 | £559 |
| Norfolk BB | £459 | £409 | £359 | £449 |
| Runnymede Court | £349 | £349 | - | - |
| Flight Only | £189 | £139 | £139 | £199 |

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Pupils Connect in art project

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

PENT Valley pupils have been creating art out of old furniture with the help of an artist from Folkestone's Creative Quarter.

A group from Year 9 took part in the three-day project, organised by the Shepway Find Your Talent programme which aims to bring youngsters into contact with local artists.

This included help from Maggie Large, who works in paintings, sculptures and prints and whose studio is in the Old High Street.

The programme intends to help develop students' creative skills using various media, with contributions from local businesses.

These include Folkestone Auctions, Brewers Paints, Dot Wormley at Hythe's Heart Foundation Shop and Ruth Morgan from Green Door in Hythe.

Aptly named 'Connect', the project is organised by Future Creative, in partnership with The Creative Foundation, which is managing Shepway Find Your Talent.

Pent Valley head-teacher Mario Citro said: "It was great to see the pupils get stuck into the project and get so much out of it."

The collection of works, entitled "Ordinary Extraordinary", will be on display at the school on July 7 as part of Pent Valley's National Shine Week.

Also featured during this will be a Latin American workshop with students from



TAKE A SEAT: Pupils display their artistic creations

Years 7-12 giving a performance to their peers at the end of the session, a radio and media workshop from Pent Valley's own Kent Safe Schools radio station and on July 8 the 'Talent2' summer show.

Shepway Find Your Talent is being lead by The Creative Foundation in partnership with Kent County Council, one of 10 national pathfinders commissioned by the Government across England.

It is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Go to www.findyourtalent.org/pathfinders/shepway.

BREAK TIME

Volunteer honoured

A FOLKESTONE volunteer has been recognised for his good work at an awards ceremony at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Paul Louw, 25, of Cheriton Road was one of 30 students given the award by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Harry Cragg, on Monday June 1.

Paul contributed over 20 hours working at Canterbury prison and taking part in University-led initiatives.

Paul, who recently completed a degree at Christ Church said: "Volunteering was very rewarding."

Judy Challis, volunteering co-ordinator at Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "Initiatives such as this strengthen the University's ties with the wider community."

To find out about Canterbury Christ Church Shepway campus at University Centre Folkestone, call 0800 804 8500 or visit the website at www.ucf.ac.uk.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourshepway@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk



ART CLASS: Students turn items of old furniture into works of art on the Shepway Find Your Talent programme

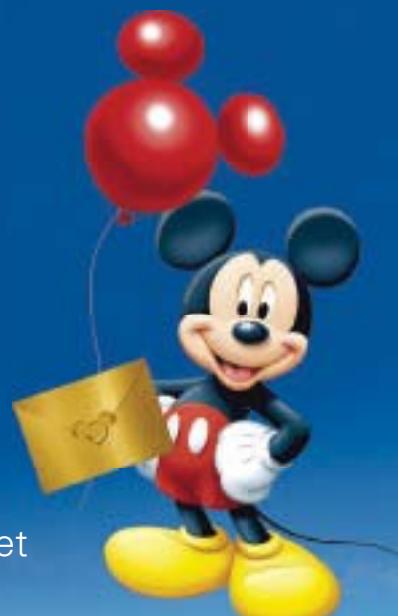


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your competition

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We have a great holiday for two to Jersey to give away. Flying out on Saturday, August 29, our winners will spend seven nights at the fantastic three-star Merton Hotel in St Helier. As well as all the sights, the winners can enjoy the hotel's new £1 million Flowrider - a unique "skill and thrill" aquatic attraction.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic holiday, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Jersey Holiday Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is July 29, 2009.

Kent International Airport



Question: What day does the Kent International flight operate to Jersey?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

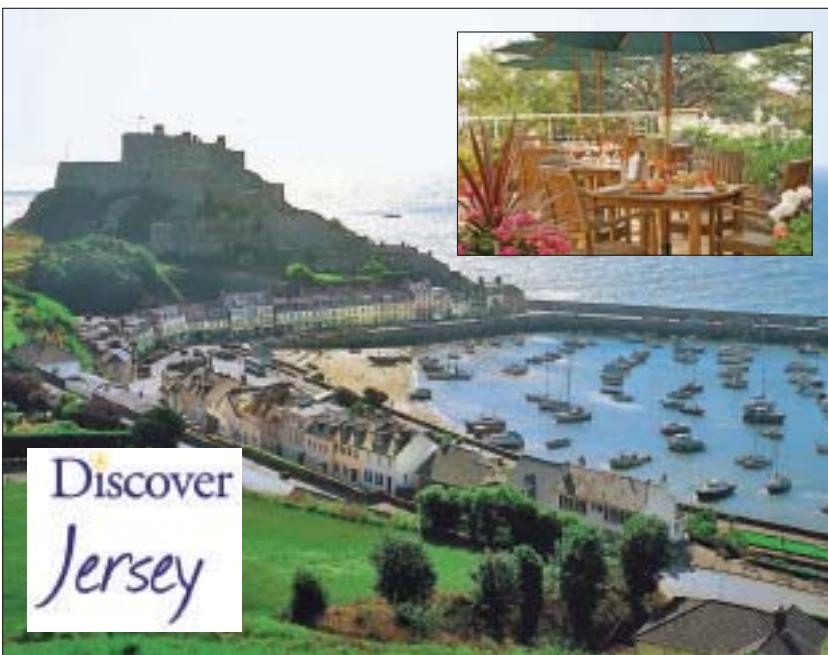
If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Only one entry per household. Correct entries will be drawn at random on July 30 and a winner selected. The winner will be notified by post. The prize is non-transferable and includes two free flights from Kent International Airport, departing August 29 for a week.

Seven nights accommodation at the Merton Hotel in a twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. Transfers to hotel are included.

The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 years and over. Promotion excludes employees and their immediate families of the promoters, any agencies of the promoters and anyone professionally connected with the promotion.

All personal data collected via this promotion will only be used for the purpose of marketing the holidays and travel offered by Discover Jersey & Guernsey.



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or call 0845 165 1004

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CHARITY GOLF DAY 2009

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER

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At: Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent, CT27 8JX

IN AID OF

STARS FOUNDATION FOR CEREBRAL PALSY & MARTHA TRUST, DEAL

The day will start with bacon rolls and coffee served from 10.30, followed by a shotgun start at 12 noon. After play there will be a 3 course dinner at 6pm, with well known comedian Adger Brown, followed by an auction.

The event will raise vital funds for the Martha Trust, a charity providing lifelong residential and respite care for people with profound and multiple disabilities in Kent and also The Stars Foundation for Cerebral Palsy a charity who raise funds to buy mobility, communication and educational aids.



If you would like further information or to register to play, please contact Serita Boxall 01304 610448 / seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk or visit www.marthatrust.org.uk



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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **T**

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 879522 **T**

NOT YOUR

BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed blonde, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **T**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 **T**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, fits, no baggage, from Kent. Maidstone area. Box 448471 **T**

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265 **T**

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5ft4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **T**

GOOD SOUND?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447959 **T**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **T**

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **T**

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 **T**

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker. Tel: Box 446093 **T**

GALLOP AHEAD!

Mainstrewn-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311 **T**

UNDERSTAND ME

Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5ft6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, strong, young man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524 **T**

WISHLIFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 **T**

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, sees a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 **T**

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A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **T**

A HEART FULL OF LOVE
Nice looking, genuine 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTM a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890 **T**

A FAIRY TALE ENDING
Easypointe blonde animal lover, 41, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451078 **T**

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **T**

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **T**

BLONDE AMBITION
Blonde, bubbly, blonde single mom, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **T**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY
Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gsoh, looking for a man with no issues and gsoh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **T**

FANCY A DRINK?
Hi, I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving, looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship. I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 **T**

ACTIVELY TYPE
Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTM mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819 **T**

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring blonde, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTM someone loving and faithful, likes meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 452503 **T**

GOOD SOUND?
Hi I'm Lynne, 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449181 **T**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 443466 **T**

PROFESSIONAL LADY
Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 **T**

COULD YOU KNOW?
Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking honest guy with similar interests. Box 448683 **T**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking a like-minded woman for a fl. Box 453064 **T**

DREAMS OF YOU
Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, NFS male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **T**

SOMETHING NEW
Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking honest guy with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 **T**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 452878 **T**

DREAMS OF YOU
Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, NFS male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **T**

LET'S LOOK THIS WAY!
Smart single mom, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 445458 **T**

HELP ME OPEN UP
Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 878407 **T**

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 **T**

SAY YES!
Funny lady, 48, looking for tattooed hippy/biker/metal type to relieve the boredom, must enjoy cat cuddling and have own chocolate because I never share! Box 878407 **T**

LET'S MEET THIS WAY!
Smart single mom, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, hair/winks, looks out for new friends, hopefully someone special. Box 878456 **T**

LOVING AND GENUINE
Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **T**

MEANT TO MEET...
Grounded lady of 73, looking for companionship with a similar gentle man who wants to share and enjoy all of life's pleasures. Box 453141 **T**

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 5ft7, dark eyes, GSoh, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **T**

JOINED AT THE HIP
Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **T**

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38 year old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901693 **T**

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JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **T**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLTM like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Hastings Box 417100 **T**

HIT THE JACKPOT

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionhood and romance. Box 878216 **T**

SHARE LIFE

Caring woman of 52, normal, down-to-earth, open minded and loves to give, looking for an understanding and caring female to enjoy films, walks and more. Box 878294 **T**

YOUNG AT HEART

Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for a man with no issues and gsoh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **T**

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving, looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship. I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 **T**

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Caring, bubbly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTM similar loving male. Box 443642 **T**

2'S COMPANY

Seeking gent, 48-50ish! I'm a divorced woman in Ryde, 47, working in nursing, and WLTM someone loving and faithful, likes meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 446189 **T**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 452878 **T**

DO YOU COUNT ON ME?

Paul, 33, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes. I'm an honest, reliable and trustworthy guy, likes most sports and I'm looking for a soulmate. Box 453042 **T**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?

Friendly Mike, 33, 6ft1, dark hair and eyes, likes swimming, cinema, eating out and going to the beach, nights in, nights out and more. Box 447191 **T**

DOWN-TO-EARTH

Attractive single dad, 36, 5ft7, medium build, gsoh, likes swimming, eating out and socialising, seeking a like-minded woman for a fl. Box 453064 **T**

ARE YOU NOT ALONE?

Rob from Kent, 43, likes all the good things in life, fishing and romantic walks, WLTM a woman of similar age for good times. Box 450986 **T**

FULL OF LIFE

Friendly Mike, 33, 6ft1, dark hair and eyes, likes swimming, cinema, eating out and going to the beach, nights in, nights out and more. Box 447191 **T**

BE THERE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, athletic/muscular, black hair, enjoys concerts, walks on the beach and eating out. Box 447191 **T**

PUT THE SPARK IN MY LIFE

Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, WLTM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211 **T**

FRIENDS FIRST

Caring, understanding chap, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes, hair, skin/average build, I'm easygoing and relaxed, and like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361 **T**

ATTRACTION, BUBBLY LADY

52yrs old, blonde, size 12, enjoys good food, theatre, cinema, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly romance. Hastings Box 441413 **T**

TLC ON OFFER

Good-looking man, 40, 5ft7, medium build, dark hair/brown eyes, slim/average build, I'm easygoing and relaxed, and like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361 **T**

HOMELY SORT

Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a horny woman, with GSOH. I'm female, 56, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Eastbourne. Box 451409 **T**

I'LL MAKE YOU SMILE

Keith from Kent, 40, two children, like walking, swimming, cycling, eating, fun-loving, looking for a girl with a similar interest. Box 453111 **T**

NIGHT OUT? NIGHT IN?
Easygoing male, 40, likes most things in life, seeks slim white female 21-45 for company, friendship and more. Box 451869 **T**

A NEW LIFE
Quite (a little bit shy) widow, 41, loves cooking, looking for an older lady for a serious relationship. Box 452701 **T**

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, athletic/muscular, black hair, enjoys concerts, walks on the beach and eating out. Box 447191 **T**

IN YOUR EYES

Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664 **T**

PUPPY LOVE

Dog-loving guy, I'm 47, 5ft8, with short hair/green eyes, slim build. I love gardening, country walks, and football/tennis, DIY, animals. Box 428800 **T**

RED OR WHITE? OR ROSE?

Bachelor of 50, tall, blonde hair, eyes, likes boating, cinema, parks, country walks, looking for a special lady to share a bottle of wine with. Polegate. Box 452628 **T**

INTELLIGENT GENT

Successful guy, 53, looking for a special lady, with GSOH, for fun, friendship, maybe more, enjoys literature, art, travel, music, history, theatre. OHAC. Box 451937 **T**

FIT THE BILL?

Old romantic, 55, non-smoker, likes watching football, driving, holidays and romance! looking for a female 45+ who wants to have the good old days back! Box 452051 **T**

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Young 58yr old male, 5ft7, blue eyes, fair hair, enjoys clubs, pub, the coast, sailing, comedy, WLTM a woman of similar age for good times. Box 451937 **T**

HOPELESS SOUGHT

Good looking and fit 59 year old, young looking A blonde, blue eyes, likes most things, WLTM female for friendship and more. Box 453137 **T**

THE GOOD LIFE

Blonde male, 37, 5ft9, love golf, don't mind a beer, WLTM an open-minded female for good times, maybe a relationship. Box 388967 **T**

NIGHTS IN AND OUT

Separated male in Maidstone area, 44 looking for a lady, 40-50, to wine and dine and

yourshepwayblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living on the Channel coast



Seagulls may be a rubbish nuisance but so are councils

SO people think wheelie bins will end the litter that blights the streets in Dover.

Well, they need to take a careful look at Shepway before moving that way.

After reading the story in last week's paper, I was amazed that people think it will be so easy to introduce wheelie bins and end the mess on our streets caused, it was claimed, by seagulls.

Seagulls are vermin and if you hand them a pile of kitchen scraps, thinly protected by black plastic, they'll find their way in.

What we actually need is recognition of the fact that people create rubbish and we, the council taxpayers, are all happy to pay for it to be taken away and disposed of.

I don't want to be forced into recycling – sort it for me. Nor do I want recycling used as an excuse for less frequent rubbish collections (don't mention Shepway).

Just accept we have to dispose of it.



FLASHBACK: Last week's report on Dover's streets

And in return for making my waste disappear regularly, I'm prepared to pay.

It's a very simple contract. Local democracy is good: upstanding citizens stand for election, they appoint competent local officers to carry out the wishes of the electorate, whether that be resurfacing the pavements, making sure the street lights work or, as in this case, dispose of our rubbish.

Where it starts to go awry is when the non-elected (and often extremely well-paid) officers get it wrong – they don't have to be re-elected.

And too many councillors are in awe of officers.

We don't need jobs created for five-a-day officers to make sure we get enough fruit, we simply need our basic requirements met.

Dover's streets frequently look terrible when the rubbish is due to be collected.

Part of the bin men's job should be to clean up the streets, too. As I've said, I'm prepared to pay for that. And if wheelie bins are the answer, get on with it and issue them. I suspect they may not be the complete answer.

The people of Swale have issues with streets cluttered by wheelie bins. And in Shepway, if you have more rubbish than your bin can take, they won't collect it. Ridiculous.

So I fear any move in that direction in Dover will merely encourage more silly rules about what rubbish we can actually throw away and how much.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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TALK TIME

NICHOLAS REED

The editor of Folkestone Creative magazine on how he came to know the town and its prospects for the future.



Tell us about yourself

I write and publish books on local history. This includes Folkestone Then and Now, the first local history book in the country to be all in colour. I also lecture and publish on art, mainly for NADFAS, the fine arts society. I lived in south-east London until 2003, when I moved to Folkestone.

How did you first come to know the area?

Lecturing about E Nesbit, author of The Railway Children, I came to know about Dymchurch on Romney Marsh. Then I bought a rental flat in Folkestone in 1999, and got to know that area. The pressure group Go Folkestone also showed the great potential around here.

Tell us about Folkestone Creative

I set up Folkestone Creative magazine in July 2005, when we heard the late great Quarter magazine was closing down. It had built up so much goodwill and was so useful in publicising events that I wanted to fill the gap. Our monthly What's On section tries to list all local creative and artistic events, while the rest of the magazine previews and reviews events in more detail.

Tell us something that people don't know about you

I'm currently completing a book about my father, who ran double-agents in the Second World War, and whose photo was used on the identity card of The Man Who Never Was, the most famous and successful deception plan of the War against the Nazis.

Where can people find out about you and your work?

Log on to www.liburnypress.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS

Football club needs us to show support

Sorry to see the problems affecting our football team. I have watched Folkestone Invicta under Neil Cugley for years and am sorry that this latest financial worry will be on the minds of him and the team as we go into the new season.

But we are living in tough times and football is not immune to the realities of the recession.

I wish the team well and hope more of your readers will come along to support the Seasiders when the season begins in August.

Tom Jardine
Folkestone



Feeling down about the end of the lift

So, it looks like the end for the Leas Cliff Lift. An unfortunate



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Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, you can comment via our website too.

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And remember, www.yourshepway.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Shepway as well as the surrounding villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourshepway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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combination of timing by our council (whose management and care of our cash has always been a little too relaxed for my liking), and the credit crunch, which brings the reduced likelihood of a private benefactor appearing.

Perhaps it is too much to be bothered with but I bet you if this existed in the United States, it would be beautifully painted and properly promoted as a tourist attraction.

Equally if it were in France, it

would probably be a dangerous wreck that is pretty much neglected, but it'd still run and be used regularly to allow people to get from the beach (which would have plenty of cafes and stalls) to the Leas.

Different countries, different ways of looking after and using their heritage.

C'est la vie,

Charles Whitworth
Hythe

Give other train stations a trial too

Following on from all the hype about the high speed train and how it will cut journey times from many places in the county, why is it only being tested from Ashford?

Surely it would be fair for the services, which are being run prior to the launch, to set off from various stations?

As well as ensuring the track is up to standard this will also help passengers familiarise themselves with the new trains.

Ian Hagen
by email

Jacko's mourners should just Beat It

Is it just me, or has everyone gone totally over the top about Michael Jackson?

OK, he made a few good albums, and the songs were alright and the videos clever.

But he certainly was no saint and that is even before you start looking into the allegations over his private life.

It seems as soon as anyone dies

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now a sort of Princess Di factor comes into play.

Everyone uses it as an occasion for relentless outpourings of grief.

It certainly is tragic for his family and I am sure his fans will miss the opportunity to watch his shows and buy his music, if any new releases were forthcoming.

But as a general cause for upset and tears – no, I don't think so.

James Heath
by email

Tempers heat up if you're stuck at work

It's noticeable how people's attitudes changes during hot weather.

When people are not working everything is more relaxed, drinkers spill out onto pavements, parks and beaches are packed and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

But when it comes to those working there seems to be a short tempered attitude among staff everywhere.

So hot weather is great if you are free to enjoy it. But if you are shut away indoors it is just annoying.

Jessica Bradshaw
by email

Sporting priorities are all wrong on TV

I agree with the letter by Ian Paynter in last week's paper. It

seems to have been ages coming but at last the Ashes will soon be here.

After weeks of having to put up with the tedious antics of the grunting women of Wimbledon there is real sport about to come to everyone's attention.

But it won't, will it?

While the BBC spends millions on coverage of Wimbledon and Formula 1, only those with Sky will be able to see one of the top sporting rivalries in the world go head-to-head for a gripping two months.

The England-Australia Test is one of the jewels in the crown of world sport and last time it was in this country it gripped the nation.

It is not fair that we have to suffer loads of boring sports and not get to see a minute of one that has been part of this nation's history for more than a century.

The BBC has not got its priorities anywhere near right.

Anthony Lockwood
by email

Help a charity and maybe win a car too

We at the Meningitis Trust are delighted to have been generously given a brand new Honda Jazz car to raffle off by Phoenix Honda; helping to raise much needed funds for our work.

The car, worth over £10,000, was donated as a prize for our national raffle, which anyone over 16 years of

age can enter.

The raffle is a great way to support our work and at only £2 a ticket, the prize could be a once-in-a-lifetime bargain.

By buying tickets, you will be helping the thousands of people who are struggling with the impact of meningitis. We offer support to anyone affected, providing a lifeline when they need it most.

Meningitis can affect anyone, of any age, at any time. It's a devastating disease that can strike quickly, killing within hours. For many, they are left stunned and traumatised by the experience – struggling to come to terms with the after-effects, or grieving for a loved one who was snatched away.

With no vaccine to protect against all strains of the disease, knowing the signs and remaining vigilant is the only way to protect yourself and those around you.

We not only support people living with the effects of meningitis, but are also committed to raising awareness of the disease.

Wouldn't it be great to say you did something good today? By taking part in our raffle, you may be rewarded with a new car, but you will definitely be rewarded with the knowledge your actions have helped others.

To buy or sell tickets, please contact me on 0845 120 2123, email Hondaraffle@meningitis-trust.org, or see www.meningitis-trust.org.

Anne Currie
The Meningitis Trust

The Aspinall Foundation 2009 totally wild challenge



10k run & 10k/30k bike ride fundraising events

Saturday 5 September 2009

Join us for our totally wild challenge to help raise funds for The Aspinall Foundation's animal conservation projects in Kent and overseas.

- 10k bike ride – ideal for families!
- Fully-marshalled with regular drink stations.
- Every finisher gets a medal.
- For a totally tough challenge, you could run AND cycle!
- Event starts and finishes inside Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Stay and enjoy the park with family and friends for the rest of the day.
- As a charity, we rely solely on public donations so would ask you to raise as much sponsorship as possible.

To enter online for the run:
www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildrun
and for the bike ride:
www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildbike

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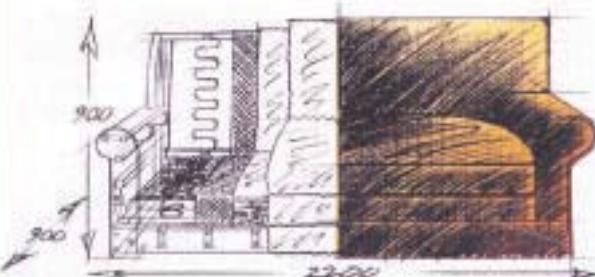
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Get set to rock farm

Hip-hop's 'head honcho' Roots Manuva joins Edwyn Collins on star-studded line-up at award-winning festival

LOUNGE ON THE FARM

July 10-12
Merton Farm, near Canterbury

FROM hip hop to indie, Lounge on the Farm presents a diverse range of music treats this year.

Boasting headline acts such as Edwyn Collins and The Horrors, the three-day festival offers new and established acts from a variety of genres.

The Saturday night headliner has been announced as seminal UK performer Roots Manuva.

Following the example of Glastonbury boss Michael Eavis, who added US superstar Jay-Z to the bill last year, LOTF organiser Matt Gough has decided to bring the "head honcho of UK hip hop" to Kent.

The music starts on Friday when Hobo Jones and The JD, A Hawk & A Hacksaw, Toddla T, Los Salvadores, The King Blues and Gong are just some of the great acts taking to the stage before headline act The Horrors brings the day to a close.

Saturday's entertainment includes performances by Krafty Kuts, The Temper Trap, Portico Quartet and The Aliens, alongside nearly 30 other acts.

Sunday's final line-up includes Underground Heroes, Krissy & The Jackdaws, the James Taylor Quartet, Son of Dave, Dan Le Sac v Pip, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish & The MBE and a finale from Edwyn Collins.

Upcoming Kent bands will have the chance to perform after being voted into the line-up by fans and the lucky winners include Elephants, Billy Wears Dresses, The Sketch, Ghost In Mirrors, Twilight Green and The Dukes.

The festival has received much acclaim for its support of local food and drink producers, so there will be plenty of gastronomic delights.

Lounge on the Farm's accolades include The Telegraph's recommendations for top family festivals, while last year's event was among the Times' Top 10 Boutique Festivals, the Observer's Top 20 Festivals You've Never Heard Of and the Guardian's



STAR TURNS: Saturday headliner Roots Manuva, and right, Edwyn Collins, who brings the festival to a close on Sunday

Best Family Festivals. Organisers also earned a Greener Festival Award for their commitment to environmentally-friendly working practices.

Despite the recession, early bird tickets sold out in record time this year. Full weekend tickets cost £85 for adults, £45 for children and £180 for families of two adults and two children. Children aged five and under are admitted for free.

For full festival listings and to book tickets, visit the website at www.lougeonthefarm.co.uk.



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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

JEZ LOWE

Friday, July 10
Norton Knatchbull School, Ashford



ACCLAIMED folk act Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies visit Ashford as part of the Equator World Music Series.

Recently described by BBC Radio 2 as 'one of our best songwriters', Lowe is skilled at combining bittersweet lyrics with lively melodies to create an unforgettable sound. For 15 years Lowe and the Bad Pennies have been travelling around the world, performing their songs and music of Northern England at folk festivals, clubs and stages all over the globe. Lowe won a Sony Award for his songwriting work on the BBC's Radio Ballads series.

Lowe is joined by Kate Bramley on fiddle and duet vocals, Tyneside champion Northumbrian piper Andy May on pipes, whistles and piano and fretless bass supremo David de la Haye on bass and vocals.

The band are touring to support Lowe's new album, Jack Common's Anthem, and will also be performing some of his classic songs.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10 or £34 for families. To book, visit www.shivanova.com or call 01233 629165.



Picture ALAN BENNINGTON

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SHEPWAY LEISURE**Quartets are the stars of jazz at the Grand**

THE Roger Lewin Quartet will be providing an evening of live jazz at The Grand in Folkestone on Thursday.

Led by Lewin on keyboard, saxophonist Phil Brown, bass player Steve King and drummer John Willis will be performing in Keppels Music Room as the weekly jazz event continues. The music starts at 8.30pm. For more information call 01303 277175.

Traditional summer fun at village hall's fair

FUN is on offer at Lympne Village Hall Summer Fayre this weekend.

The event is at the village hall in Aldington Road on Saturday, from 1-4.30pm. There will be lots of displays and stalls, along with a beer tent, refreshments and more.

Entry is by donation to the village hall fund. For more information call 01303 265851.

Help solve crime after party game gets messy

AMATEUR sleuths are invited to solve a terrible crime at a murder mystery evening in Eastry.

A dinner party turns into a crime scene when a game of Murder becomes too real. All That Glitters is being held at the Five Bells at 7pm on Saturday and teams of two to eight people are welcome. For more information and to book call 01304 611188.

Music and drama in bid to save sick apple tree

EMBARK on a magical journey as Ana tries to save her beloved fruit tree in The Apple Journey a play by local actress Juliet Alderdice.

The play with music can be seen at the Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe, at 1.30pm on Wednesday and at 7.30pm on Thursday. Tickets cost £8/£6. To book call the box office on 01303 223925. Details at www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

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yourmusic

High Rocks Festival rejig gives Power to the people

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AS the old adage goes, good things come to those who wait.

And so it proves to be for British Sea Power fans, with the Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie stars set to headline the re-arranged High Rocks music festival in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The Brighton-based outfit were originally booked to perform at the Sonic Heights' 'A Day With British Sea Power' one-dayer earlier this summer but pulled out citing recording commitments.

But the Sonic Heights team were able to pull some strings, moving the whole music marathon to Sunday August 2.

The move sees existing ticketholders avoid disappointment and increases the likelihood of BSP playing brand new, never-heard-before material.

Sonic Heights' Chris Pritchard said he thought their debut event was shaping up well.

He said: "British Sea Power in a converted barn in Tunbridge Wells. It does not get much better than that."

"Sonic Heights are thrilled to be putting on this show, especially it being our first."

"It was a shame the event has had to be moved. The fact that we have to be patient for longer is the biggest frustration, but with possible issues occurring during the recording session, we didn't want this show being the reason for a delay of hearing the band's new material."

Scores of bands are being lined up on the undercard, with Tom Williams & The Boat, The Help Movement, Lights Go Blue, Maker,



and Krissy & The Jackdaws already agreeing to play.

More bands and DJs are set to be unveiled nearer the time.

The High Rocks festival is open to over-16s only. Music runs from 2pm to midnight. Tickets cost £16.

For more information, you can visit www.wegottickets.com/event/50660

LINE-UP

A Day With...
British Sea Power
Tom Williams & The Boat
The Help Movement
Lights Go Blue
Maker
Krissy & The Jackdaws



LINE-UP: Brighton's British Sea Power (top) will be joined at High Rocks by Tom Williams & The Boat (above)

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- 5 Kayley Weller - 30/8 The Three Horseshoes, Mongeham

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Girls can find a selection of funky styles to keep them looking cool in the sunshine. The shop is offering a range of different designs, including floral print (£50), vintage rose (£25), check frill (£38) or stripe bandeau (£25).

Or for those wanting to cover up a bit, long-legged jumpsuits can also be found in a variety of styles. To see the full collection visit www.topshop.com.

Parade around like a Peacock in new shoes

AVOID aching feet over the summer months with sandals from Peacocks.

Ladies can give their feet a break from high-heels but still look smart with the store's selection of footwear. White jewelled sandals (£5), shell effect trim sandals (£8) and white open toe sandals (£12) can all be found. Or pink print strappy gladiator sandals (£10) or the leopard print design.

See the selection at www.peacocks.co.uk or head to the store in Folkestone.

Summer reading at 60 per cent off - bargain

GET UP to 60 per cent off paperbacks when you stock up on your summer reading at WHSmith.

John Le Carre's The Constant Gardener is £2.80, down from £6.99, while Sebastian Faulks' new Bond novel Devil May Care is £3.20, reduced from £7.99.

Dan Brown's multimillion-selling Angels and Demons is also both 50 per cent off, at £3.99. To take advantage of these and offers, go to www.whsmith.co.uk or visit the branch in Folkestone.

HMV prices give a good reason for square eyes

ENJOY a range of savings on new block-busters and classic films when you buy online or in-store from HMV.

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To see the full collection visit www.dorothyperkins.com or go to your nearest store in Folkestone.

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The computer-animated Ice Age series returns with Sid the sloth being taken to a dangerous subterranean kingdom after stealing dinosaur eggs and his friends beginning a rescue mission.

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A suicidal postman receives spiritual guidance from famously-philosophical midfielder Eric Carton in this quirky British film exploring the escape football offers fans in their hour of need.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (15)



The robots continue their feud in this sequel, with more slam-bang thrills and skirmishes between the noble Autobots and the Decepticons.

Cameron steps up to the role of desperate mum

■ BY KATE WHITING

AFTER years of playing the ditzy blonde known for having one of the broadest smiles in Hollywood, Cameron Diaz is moving on.

Following roles in comedies such as Charlie's Angels and What Happens In Vegas, she admits that it was new territory acting in the big-screen adaptation of Jodi Picoult's heart-rending novel My Sister's Keeper.

Reflecting on her portrayal of mother Sara Fitzgerald, whose child is dying from leukaemia, she explains that she had to grow into the role.

"There was a certain level of maturity that had to come with playing this role, that I think I had to step up to, which I was happy and thankful for," she says, picking her words carefully.

In the film, Fitzgerald chooses to have a second child by IVF as a blood and marrow donor for her first daughter Kate.

The movie co-stars 13-year-old Abigail Breslin, best known for her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's Little Miss Sunshine, as the youngest daughter Anna, who sues her parents for the medical rights to her own body, when she's expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate (Sofia Vassilieva).

Cameron, 36, admits it was a "touchy" role to take on, but she felt ready for it: "It was a nice stepping stone in the experience of life."

Casting Cameron as a mother of three teenage kids is an unusual choice, but director Nick Cassevetes, who won acclaim for 2004's The Notebook, thought otherwise.

He picked her precisely because she had done so little drama, saying: "I really didn't want to cast an actress who had done some-



BIG SMILE: Cameron Diaz is trying something new

thing similar for this film." And Cameron has not let him down. She speaks so passionately about Sara, it's easy to see she put a lot of herself into the film.

"I feel like Sara is a warrior," she gushes.

"She doesn't have a moment not to be vigilant. She can't be apathetic one second of the day."

"She has a child who's dying and she has

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been through a decade of this vigilance. So, she's just sort of pushing through this."

To research the role, Cameron met mothers with sick children who were going through the same experience as Sara.

"No matter what the circumstances were – everybody had a different financial position or some were married and some were divorced – they all said that there's just not a moment that you aren't focused on keeping your child alive," she says.

"What's so wonderful with this film is that you see how it's not one person's story - it's not just a mother losing a daughter, it's a sister losing a sister or a brother losing a sister, a family losing their family together, all of them suffering separately as well as together."

MY SISTER'S KEEPER 
Certificate 12A

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- Be aware of fraud in your business
- Why one man won't take part in the crunch
- Is someone stealing your company identity?
- Time for businesses to pay on time
- Dealing with the pension fallout
- Getting on the gold bandwagon
- Are you caught up in costly red tape?

- Nail your next career move
- How businesses are riding the storm
- Make the most of motoring discounts
- Used-car idea that won't be scrapped

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Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600

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■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free tomato and mozzarella flatbread when you buy a bottle of rose wine in the Victory pub

■ Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off all bikes

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages

■ Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services and MOTs from £119.99

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar military-style chronograph watch. Save £20 – offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Summer savings for our readers

COMPANIES' traditionally fight their battles against rival firms in the same sector.

But in the current economic situation, firms with an eye on the future are equally engaged with a fight against the conditions in the marketplace.

In this latest edition of Money Matters we offer some advice from the experts on how firms can keep themselves fighting fit by taking steps to avoid becoming the victims of fraudsters – from inside and outside the organisation.

There are also some top tips for individuals planning their pensions, and individuals looking for

a safe place for their savings. Gold is making a comeback, and you may soon even be able to buy it from a vending machine.

We also feature some of the many money-saving offers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk. There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; retail trades and services; and

also from members of the Canterbury Independent Traders.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

Summer puts us all in a good mood, and we hope these offers will help you to make the most of the sunny months.

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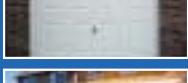
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Is there fraud in your business?



BUSINESS need to be aware of fraud at all levels.

The exposés on MPs' expenses should serve as a warning to business managers that fraudulent activity could be happening much closer to home than they might realise.

With the continuing uncertain economic outlook it is vital the risks are actively managed.

When dealing with the likely sources of fraud it is more often people inside the business that are the culprits, and managers should pay as much attention to the internal risks as the external ones.

internal risks as the external ones.

There are some simple issues that can be addressed which may prevent fraud from occurring. Establishing correct internal checks and balances, which are both sensible and in proportion with the associated risks, will go some way to ensuring the most vulnerable areas are covered.

In addition to assessing the risk factors, there are other important tips that can help a business detect and prevent fraud:

- Know your people – both staff and contractors, and if something doesn't quite add up, ask more questions.

By ANDREW JONES

- Training – ensure that once the risks have been identified, staff are trained to spot and prevent attempted fraud.

- Unusual behaviour or transactions – long hours, no holidays and living beyond their means may be signs of fraudulent behaviour. Likewise large amounts of petty cash transactions or unusual expenses could be evidence.

However, just because none of these signs is evident does not mean fraud is not present.

If a business believes it might have become the victim of fraud, the evidence must be secured and there should be a well-rehearsed plan in place to allow all options to be investigated.

Taking early action and speaking to experts in the fraud arena can often make a big difference in fully understanding what has happened.

By successfully identifying and dealing with the fraudsters, recovering what has been lost and learning lessons to reduce the chances of it happening again will all help.

Tilly has offices in Bromley and Tunbridge Wells.

Wells.
Its Southern region forensic services director Bill White said: "Fraud is becoming increasingly common, particularly in today's uncertain economic conditions.

"Both businesses, and the people who work in them, are under increasing pressure to perform and therefore the temptation to try and gain funds dishonestly may only be a step away.

"At Baker Tilly we have a team of experienced forensic experts who can advise on all aspects of corporate fraud.

"We often find that businesses don't always know where to look for help or who to speak to when fraud has been uncovered, but it is important to take early advice."

AWARE: When dealing with the likely sources of fraud it is more often people inside the business that are the culprits.



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SURVIVOR'S MESSAGE: IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, Jonathan Gwyer

Refusing to be bowed or beaten

By **TONY PATEY**

WHITSTABLE businessman Jonathan Gwyer is not allowing the current economic crisis to get him down.

Mr Gwyer, 37, wears a badge that states: 'I refuse to participate in a recession.' And he wants more people to do the same.

He said: "It seems some people have written off the year. We are still proactive and positive."

As an IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, the father-of-four is also chapter director of the local BNI, a business networking body.

Mr Gwyer admits there have been some hairy moments through the financial problems of the past year "like the moment Iceland's Icesave bank went into receivership."

"That was just before Christmas, and all of our capital was in that bank. We were very relieved when the Government rescued depositors."

At a time now when many large and small businesses are struggling, HDG Networks is confident that it can still be business as usual.

"I am finding that as a smaller business with lower overheads, we are getting work with companies that are trying to grow while keeping costs down."

"In a recent job, I was called in and the company in question had been quoted more than £4,000 for an expansion of their IT system."

"We were able to give them a more bespoke solution, and it wasn't necessary for them to spend anywhere near so much money. They were delighted."

"In a crisis such as this, businesses must adapt and we will do what it takes."

"We're doing everything from installing wireless and broadband in homes or offices, to building websites, teaching people how to run their own website or breathing new life into old PCs, in fact pretty much any kind of IT support."

Mr Gwyer set up HDG Networks in 2007, after 16 years at the drugs giant Pfizer in Sandwich.

He said: "I knew I could offer small businesses the kind of support that big business demands but within their own budgets."

"My wife, Helen, supported me all the way with my decision, I think she wondered what took me so long."

To find out how you can get your own badge, contact Mr Gwyer at www.hdgnet.com.



Business of identity theft

ONE of our clients had its registered office changed without the company's knowledge.

This was done by someone simply printing off a filed form with the company secretary's name on and then tracing the signature onto form 287, enabling the change of registered office. The address remained changed for a period of some 14 days before the fraud was discovered by the company's auditors on a routine visit and corrective action taken.

The threat

Companies House estimates that there are between 50-100 cases of corporate identity fraud every month. While this is against a backdrop of tens of thousands of documents received each month, the cost incurred by British business as a result of corporate identity fraud has been estimated at more than £50 million each year.

Obtaining or changing a company's identity is surprisingly straightforward.

For example, a fraudster may file a change of registered office notice or change of directors' details at Companies House by signing one simple form. No great legal knowledge is required and copies of a serving company officer's signature are readily available from Companies House.

They accept paper documentation in 'good faith' and as such, will register documentation received without sending any further notification to a company that its details have been changed.

It is perfectly possible therefore, for a fraudster to appoint him or herself as a director of a target company, or alternatively change the target company's registered office address to one which the fraudster has access.

If you think identity theft only applies to individuals, then think again. **David Hallett**, a solicitor in the commercial team at Kent law firm Buss Murton, analyses corporate identity theft in the county

Once the registered office address has been successfully changed, all Companies House notices will be sent there.

Even worse, a customer or supplier may only send money or goods to the new registered office address as a matter of policy rather than sending those goods or money to the company's established trading address.

The fraudster only needs to be successful once at intercepting money or goods before targeting another company. Inevitably, by the time the company or authorities learn of the fraudulent activity, the fraudster will have moved and the postal address will be vacant.

The solution

However, there are procedures that can be put in place that will help to dramatically reduce the threat of identity fraud. These include:

1. Online filing. Every UK company is able to register for an authentication code (much like a pin number) with Companies House. Upon registration for this code a company is then able to submit certain documents (such as the annual return, 288a (appointment of a director) and 287 (change of registered office address) online. The use of online filing substantially reduces the risk of such documents going astray in the postal system.

2. PROOF scheme. Once a company has obtained an authentication code from Companies House, the company can then sign up to the Protected Online Filing Service (known as PROOF). Once signed up (using form PR1), Companies House will then not accept paper copies of the forms listed under point 1 above. These documents will only be accepted electronically (submitted using the authentication code). Therefore, provided the authentication code is kept safe and treated as if it were a bank account pin number, then the chances of a fraudster being able to change a company's identity are dramatically reduced.

3. Monitor. Companies or individuals can register so that they are automatically notified of all changes that occur to a company's details held at Companies House. The cost of this service can be as little as 50p per year. Once signed up to a monitoring service, the nominated individual will receive an automatic update as soon as Companies House accepts and files a document in relation to a chosen company.

In addition to this, company information should always be stored securely and any information that is to be destroyed should be done so securely (as you would when destroying personal information such as your bank statements).

- **David Hallett is a solicitor in Buss Murton LLP's company and commercial department in Tunbridge Wells. He can be contacted at the firm's Tunbridge Wells office on 01892 502306.**

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering a Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99
- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000
- Wells Clinic, beauty treatment shop in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening, lines and wrinkle reduction treatment (b/tox)
- Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory Pub
- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109
- Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs
- KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven 'Smoker Bags' for £14.99
- KOS is offering a saving of £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £35 MOT

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- Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off a hypnotherapy course
- Secure Style, the windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay, is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors
- KOS is offering a Doro 338 GSM big button mobile phone for £99.99
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139
- Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used
- KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicle when you present this voucher
- Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering a £995 Mahogany Computer Desk, now £495
- KOS is offering the Extreme Bra for £24.99
- KOS is offering Zero Gravity Recliner Chair from £124.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

A timely code for

Big businesses make a pledge to increase the speed of payments to smaller companies

CREDIT management experts have welcomed a pledge from big businesses to pay invoices from supplies on time.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) said it hoped the companies would live up to their word to pay on time and sign the Prompt Payment Code.

Some 11 new high-profile companies including Barclays, Sony UK, Sky and B&Q have committed to sign the code, as part of a campaign designed to help increase the speed of payments to smaller companies.

The code, developed with the ICM and supported by major business organisations, aims to establish a clear and consistent policy, and a climate of greater certainty in the payment of business-to-business invoices.

It is being hosted by the ICM at www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk and includes a facility for suppliers to raise concerns about late payers.

The code focuses on three main areas: a commitment to pay suppliers on time; to give clear guidance to suppliers; and to encourage good practice.

The Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform group and the ICM have also issued a leaflet highlighting the benefits of paying on time and why it is important to become a

■ BY TONY PATEY

signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Business minister Shriti Vadhera said: "Late payment can be the final straw for small business in the current climate."

"So the commitment by major companies heading up supply chains to pay on time is a win for all businesses."

Lovetts, one of the UK's leading debt recovery law firms has revealed that companies are 'going legal' on unpaid invoices a whopping 39 days sooner than a year ago.

The findings suggest that in the current economic downturn, businesses are only too mindful of the impact of late payments on cash flow and are acting quickly to reduce their exposure to bad debt.

Survival

Lovetts analysed the Letters Before Action (LBAs) issued on behalf of its customers in February 2009 against the same month in 2008, which revealed a 39-day acceleration in clients 'going legal'. LBAs are used to secure payment, or to obtain a response from a customer before the commencement of a claim.

Chairman and managing director of Lovetts,

Charles Wilson, said: "With recent news that the number of British businesses that fail is set to rise to 36,000 in 2009, the equivalent of one in every 56 companies, businesses are only too acutely aware of the potential for bad debt and the devastating impact this can have on their own survival."

"With all businesses trying to manage cash flow when there is little credit available, it's a spiral of suppliers chasing customers for money they are reluctant to release."

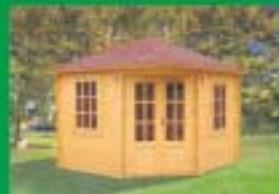
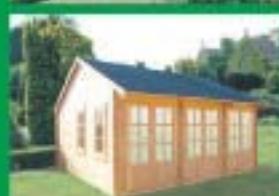
"The previous attitude towards frequent late payers may have been accepting and forgiving, but the current tough climate is pushing businesses to press for payment on time in order to protect themselves."

"Our figures certainly suggest that British businesses are determined not to be victims of bad debt and will employ all the tactics available to get paid, including pursuing debt through the courts."

"In particular it is encouraging to see that a growing number of companies are exercising their right to charge for compensation and interest on late payments."

"In this economic climate businesses need to ensure they are tackling late payment and bad debt head on. For small businesses in particular, it can be a matter of survival or failure."

To keep the cash flowing Lovetts suggests businesses consider the following actions:



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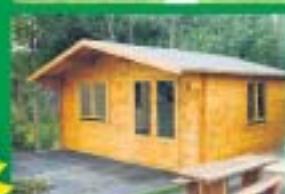
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late payers



SURVIVAL: Paying on time can be vital to help small companies survive the recession

- Bring your collection cycle forward, the sooner you get on top of potential debt problems, the better
- Seek compensation and interest through late payment legislation earlier and apply it on an invoice-by-invoice basis
- If you have interest provisions in your terms, consider whether they are sufficiently robust. Businesses with a rate linked to bank base rates are vulnerable here. Scrap the provision and rely on the late payment legislation which gives eight per cent interest

over base rate, but don't forget to circulate the new terms to your customers.

- Instruct debt recovery lawyers early
- Avoid throwing good money after bad by conducting a credit-check. If the debtor is clearly struggling, negotiate realistic instalment payments or consider a discount for immediate payment.
- If the decision is to issue a claim, be resolute in pursuing it. If the debtor asks for invoices, supply copies and any information they want quickly.

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 ■ Lexterten in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off upholstery orders over £1,500

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a jug of sangria, Carling or Worthington for only £8.95 when you visit the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving £20 on the RRP

■ EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki models

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30pm-9pm. Select a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a complimentary Strawberry Shortcake stack when you buy two courses in the Verve Grill

■ KOS is offering Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent off RRP

■ KOS is offering Solar Powered Bird Bath, save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP £149.99

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering £2 off all scrubs

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN two of Britain's leading firms announced big cutbacks to company pension schemes last month, they highlighted once again the problems facing millions of private-sector workers when they stop work.

BP closes its final salary pension scheme to new entrants from April, 2010, while Barclays Bank is taking 18,000 staff out of its final-salary scheme and into an inferior defined contributions (DC) scheme, albeit with some protection against swings in the stock market.

Barclays currently pays £350 million a year into its pension fund.

Although both schemes will be superior to the average company DC scheme, the events suggest final-salary schemes could soon vanish altogether in the private sector.

Britain's biggest FTSE 100 companies, facing total pension fund deficits of nearly £30 billion, have little option if they are to survive the recession.

Morrisons last month switched 4,500 workers from a final-salary pension scheme into one based on average salary, while BT's share price continues to suffer from fears about its huge pension fund deficit.

Nearly three-quarters of a million British workers retire in 2009 and with the value of pensions assets held around the world slashed by more than £3bn since 2007, many will have trouble making ends meet.

A survey of people aged 60-plus by Intune, the financial services provider owned by Age Concern and Help The Aged, says 55 per cent of private pension holders are disappointed with the income they expect to get.

If they could do it all again, some 39 per cent would have started a pension earlier or paid more into it. Many would have switched pension contributions into a savings account or an ISA investment, or paid the mortgage off much faster.

Pensions are put under pressure

Mervyn Kohler, special advisor to Age Concern and Help The Aged, said: "Around 680,000 people are hitting retirement age this year, and more may be looking at buying an annuity earlier because they have been made redundant."

The downturn is savaging private sector pensions. Anybody with a £50,000 pension pot retiring in 2009 will be 27 per cent worse off – around £20 per week – than somebody who quit in 2008.

Laith Khalaf, pensions analyst at financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Many firms are likely to follow Barclays and BP over the next two years, although the new BP scheme, with total contributions at 15 per cent of salary, will still be pretty good."

Struggling

"As they see the markets recover, firms will close off final salary schemes to ensure they do not hit another downturn with that millstone around their necks."

Approaching 60, most people can do little about their pension income. By then, it's too late.

At 30 or 40, however, there is still time to make sensible financial preparations for old age.

If you start saving for a pension at 25, about 15 per cent of salary should go into a pension pot. At 35, it should be 20 per cent, and thereafter a higher percentage, the later you start.

In fact, the average contribution into private-sector pensions is barely 10 per cent – and two-thirds of private-sector workers have no personal pension scheme in place at all.

Here are the options for workers struggling to find value for money from a private-sector pension scheme:

- Give up – don't put a penny in your pension. Anybody retiring on the basic State pension (£95.25 per week) and no other savings can claim Pension Credit for £130 per week.

- Once you're in a pension scheme, stick at it – because your employer probably tops up your monthly contribution.

- However, if your employer's scheme isn't particularly attractive, put other money into an alternative savings vehicle – a tax-free ISA perhaps, or alternative personal pension, or even a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) which allows a wider choice of funds, chosen with or without expert advice.

- Drawdown option: if your fund is a minimum £100,000 and you have other savings besides your pension, there may be a case for taking the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum on retirement and leaving the rest invested.

Then you buy an annuity at any time you like until the age of 75.

- Delay your State pension, rather than your private one. On your State pension, each one-year delay adds 10.4 per cent to weekly income – so a £100 pension is worth £110.40 if it was started a year ago. If you defer a State pension at 65 for one year, you make up all the money lost by age 76.

- Don't rush off to the public sector, where pensions provision is more generous and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

Even though five million public-sector workers are still guaranteed final salary pensions, there's a possibility hard-up governments will have to cut the 'perk' in due course because it will look ridiculously unfair compared to the problems already facing private-sector workers.



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Golden times for savvy savers

BY JEREMY GATES

ANY savers and investors unsettled by the recent disagreement between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over financial regulation might be consulting their budget-airline timetables.

It was confirmed last week that Germany will introduce gold vending-machines as a new method of storing wealth.

While gloomy Britons contemplate poor returns on cash and shares, shoppers at Frankfurt Airport can buy a one-gram wafer of gold for £25, or a 10g bar for £245 – with gold coins also available if required.

"German investors have always preferred to hold a lot of personal wealth in gold, for historical reasons. They have twice lost everything," the owner of the firm installing 500 Gold to Go machines in German-speaking countries told the Financial Times.

But with gold prices from machines about 30 per cent higher than market prices for the cheapest product, even Germans – who bought 108 tonnes of gold in 2008, up from 36 tonnes in 2007 – might have doubts about this new scheme.

Few dispute, however, that gold has been a strong performer in recent financial earthquakes.

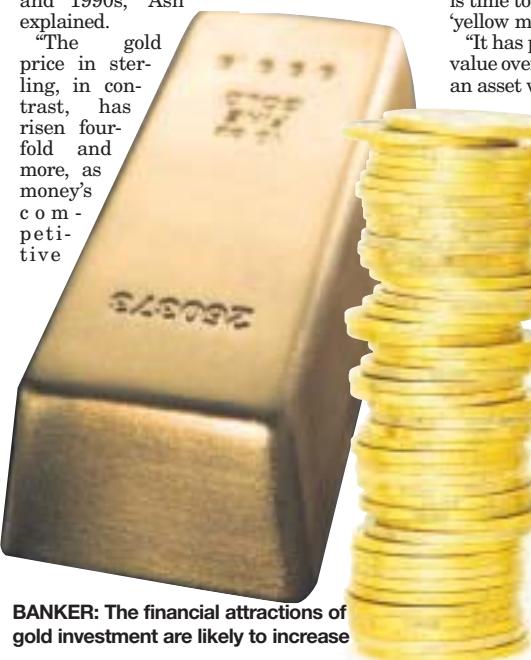
Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, an online service for gold bullion investment with 14,000 private investors worldwide, said somebody selling a home at the average price in Britain in 2004 could have bought 695 ounces of gold (at £220 per ounce) with the cash.

Today, with gold up to £603 an ounce, they could buy the average-price home back for 253 ounces. Or they could sell all the gold to buy 2.7 average-price houses.

In the intervening period, of course, they would have needed to stay with friends or family. Even 695 ounces of gold doesn't put a roof over your head.

"Real interest rates in the UK have averaged just 1.8 per cent so far this decade – barely two-fifths the real return on cash in the 1980s and 1990s," Ash explained.

"The gold price in sterling, in contrast, has risen four-fold and more, as money's come-petitive



BANKER: The financial attractions of gold investment are likely to increase

edge as a store of wealth has been steadily eroded. Physical gold ownership looks attractive to individuals worried about the future of savings.

"Gold's appeal is only likely to grow until real returns paid to cash turn sharply higher."

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) leaves share tips off the front page of its latest newsletter to small clients, and makes a case for gold instead.

"Given the current economic environment, it is time to revisit the merits or otherwise of the 'yellow metal,'" says HL's Richard Hunter.

"It has proved a remarkably resilient store of value over hundreds of years, and in addition is an asset where investors seek protection when they need it most."

He notes the net inflow of funds into all types of gold investment soared 80 per cent to a record £18 billion in 2008, despite falling demand for gold jewellery in India and the Middle East.

Many of HL's small investors use the BlackRock Gold & General fund to gain exposure to gold markets. It holds shares in 40-70 companies, most of them gold producers.

"It is realistic to have five per cent of your long-term savings in this fund," says HL's Mark Dampier.

"Gold may be a fickle animal, but given serious geopolitical and economic problems, there is reason to see gold prices going significantly higher from here."

There are various ways for individuals to hold gold: Exchange Traded Funds, jewellery, coins (sovereigns or krugerrands) and bars, or derivatives which track gold prices among them.

Mining shares are another option. Hunter reckons a five per cent rise in gold prices triggers a 10-15 per cent hike in share prices, though this effect works equally strongly in the opposite direction.

At discount broker Killik & Co, analyst Mike Gilligan says: "Investor scepticism about the rationale for gold investment is valid, given that it is a non-income-producing asset hard to value from a fundamental perspective.

"However, the macroeconomic case for higher gold prices remains intact."

The recent spike in gold prices on the back of plans for US quantitative easing serves to reinforce our view that gold will serve as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures and/or economic dislocation."

Volatile

Gilligan thinks gold demand could soar if Japan and China eventually reduce their vast dollar surpluses.

Frank Cochran, at financial advisor FSC Investment Services, notes that BlackRock Gold and General has performed "out of its skin".

"Available data suggests gold prices going higher from here," he said.

"In a high-risk portfolio, we might have 25 per cent in this fund. Lower-risk investors prefer five-10 per cent. The fund is a long-term hold, for capital growth rather than income."

The downside is that gold's price remains highly volatile: since February, for example, the price has dropped from £700 to £576 per ounce, a fall of 18 per cent.

If Chancellor Alistair Darling has it right, the 'green shoots' of recovery might return us to a financial world we know and understand.

If it doesn't, the attractions of gold are likely to increase, even if few of us are ready to buy at a vending-machine.

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Red tape, a growing cost for businesses

BY ANDREW JONES

SMALL businesses in the South East lose more than £1.4 billion every year due to government red tape, new figures have shown.

Research carried out by small business lobby and support group the Forum of Private Business (FPB) found firms in the region spend around £1,403 million each year complying with legislation – the highest amount for any region in the UK.

The figure, drawn up using feedback from FPB members, means entrepreneurs in the South East face the biggest bill in the country for carrying out the paperwork associated with running a small business.

The £1.4bn figure for the region, based on the amount of company time and money spent complying with the rules, includes £309m spent on health and safety legislation, £361m spent dealing with paperwork on employment law and £37m on dismissals and redundancy.

The work associated with staff absences cost £59m, costs associated with maternity came in at £36m and the work related to disciplinary issues was worked out at £49m.



FPB spokesman Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

"In addition, at a time when protecting both workers and businesses should be a priority, regulations are increasingly burdensome as businesses take on more staff."

Micro businesses (zero to nine employees) spend an average of 33 hours per month complying with regulations, small businesses (10 to 49 employees) 48 hours per month and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employers) 131 hours – equivalent to one full-time member of staff.

Employment law is the costliest bureaucratic burden, costing small businesses £2.4bn per year. Health and safety administration costs £2.1bn and tax £1.8bn per year, according to the FPB's research.

The average time per month spent on employment red tape (dismissals and redundancy, discipline, absence controls and management, parental leave, and holidays) is ten hours. For health and safety, it is eight hours.

Business owners spend an average of seven hours each month on tax administration, four on building and property regulations, four on standards, three on environment and waste regulations, and an hour per month on equality and diversity.

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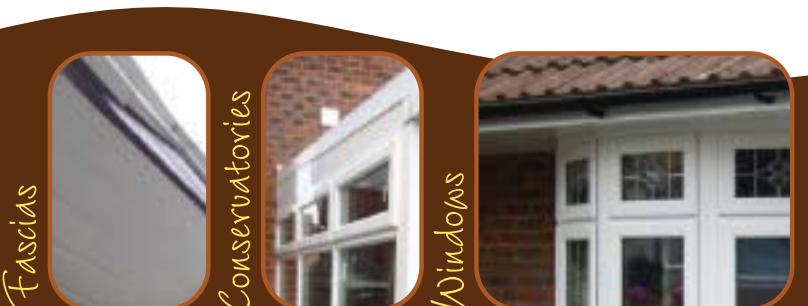
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Making it your job

How to convince companies you are the right person for the post

WITH jobless figures still rising, you never know when you might need to find a new job and it helps to have some expert advice on how to wow your next employer.

Damian Hayes, head of permanent IT recruitment at Bromley-based recruitment consultancy NetworkersMSB has some tips on how to nail your next role.

New research suggests that on average 16 people are chasing every job in the UK, up from a figure of 10 quoted by the TUC earlier this year.

The number of applicants for low-skilled jobs has also rocketed, with some advertisements attracting hundreds of candidates. Now more than ever it is important to make sure you stand out from the crowd.

Recruiters have seen a marked change in employers' demands lately; many are raising the bar higher than ever before.

Only last year, for example, candidates ticking eight out of 10 boxes for technical skills would have been offered the job but today, fulfilling the technical criteria is a given.

Employers are now placing just as much importance on how well you will fit in to their company and whether you have great communication and interpersonal skills.

Gain a New Skill

If you have time to gain a new qualification or learn a new skill, it will often give you the edge over another candidate with equal experience.

Achieving an additional qualification shows drive and ambition and when companies are becoming leaner and every member of staff is vital, it demonstrates you have the necessary commitment and motivation to get the job done.

Options might be completing an industry or vocational qualification, a business diploma or degree, or simply bringing your IT or language skills up to date.

Transferable Skills

Transferable skills are generic skills you are using every day, such as numeracy, IT literacy, sales or being able to work as part of a team.

Thinking about which of these skills you have might suggest alternative jobs that you could do or a different career path.

For example, someone with strong coaching or presentation experience could consider retraining as a teacher.

It is also worth considering other professions that use similar skill sets to your present job.

Learn a Language

Being able to speak a language can put you at an advantage, particularly if you're applying to work for a global company or for a job

that involves travel abroad.

So, this could be the time to brush up on your schoolboy French or German.

Added Value

Remember to sell yourself and not your job title on your CV. All too often CVs just list previous job titles and responsibilities.

Use the opportunity to illustrate the added value you brought to the role (and can bring to a new one) – such as by introducing a new system to save energy, improving fitting, boosting productivity or simply just making the workplace run more smoothly.

Once you've made it to an interview then you have the chance to shine. Make sure you have a good knowledge of the company and its products or services.

Demonstrate a good understanding of what makes the firm tick – its values and ethos – and show how well you would fit into its environment.

Looking Further Afield

Although the UK economy is in recession, other economies are faring better and for those who have few ties to the UK, now may be an ideal opportunity to fulfil a dream of travelling or working abroad.



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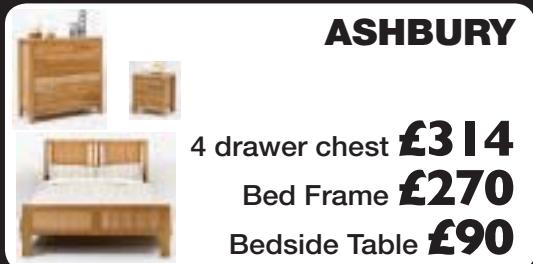
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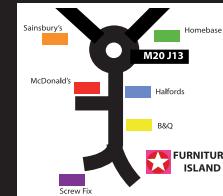
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By TONY PATEY

BUSINESS owners and managers across Kent are reducing costs, becoming more transparent, and investing in customer service in a bid to keep clients happy and avoid losing valuable business.

That's the picture revealed by new research from independent invoice financier Bibby Financial Services.

While it's not surprising that nearly two thirds (61 per cent) of business owners in the South East are actively pursuing new business as a priority to ride out the downturn, many (55 per cent) appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by upping customer service levels.

Transparent

And, more than a third (42 per cent) of the region's business owners are actually increasing their spending on hospitality as a means of retaining existing customers.

In fact, with 44 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in the South East under pressure from customers to reduce their costs, more than half (56 per cent) of business owners were in the process of trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers.

The research also revealed one in three business owners in the South East are now more transparent with clients and customers, for example giving them an insight into future business plans.

Despite their best efforts to take control of



KEEPING GOING: Business owners and their managers are reducing costs as they try to keep hold of customers through the current economic climate. Research has also revealed that more than half of businesses (55 per cent) were appreciating the importance of protecting their existing revenue by improving their levels of customer service (far right)

their firm in these unsettling times, effectively managing late payment and improving cash flow is still a major concern for 60 per cent of SME owners in the region.

Bibby Financial Services South East spokesman Andy Leopold said: "The drive for new business is all very well, but not if you're putting your all-important existing client base at risk at the same time."

"While it's promising to see the measures South East businesses are putting in place to survive the recession – ones which will also set them in good stead for long-term success – it is clear cash flow is still a major priority for businesses."

"Although the Government has now introduced several measures aimed at increasing cash flow to small businesses, few of them really seem to be taking hold, not least because the banks are themselves still strug-

gling with liquidity issues.

"The important thing is for business owners in the region to look at all aspects of their cash flow situation, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or whether they need to change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest."

In most cases, newer business owners, for example those operating since 2006, are more likely to be open and transparent with clients and customers about their situation and future business plans, and least likely to be making changes in relation to cash flow.

Indeed, business owners without experience of previous recessions are least prepared to reduce costs for clients or customers.

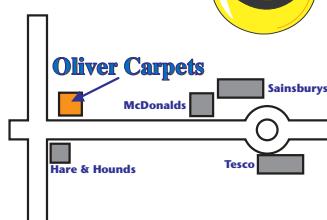
In contrast, those who've been running their business for longer and have experienced several other recessions are more likely to view financial changes as a way to get

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their business through the recession.

When it comes to business sectors, those in transport are most likely to be following the cash is king mantra, with 86 per cent looking at managing late payment and improving cash flow, compared to just 46 per cent in the hotel and catering sector.

Mr Leopold said: "Irrespective of your experience, whether you're a new business owner or more practised, cash flow should always be your key priority.

"It is worth looking at all potential ways to

improve this, whether it be taking measures to improve client retention, negotiating supply chain deals, or even simply reviewing your finances.

"Taking steps such as talking to your bank to apply for an increased overdraft facility – though at the moment this could be easier said than done – or looking at other cash flow options, such as invoice finance, which frees up the value held in your outstanding invoices, will ensure you are able to focus efforts on getting your business through the recession."

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

BY STEVE LOADER

IT MIGHT sound mad to buy a new car during a recession.

But with savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade, where business has plummeted over the past year.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

Discounted

Even if, after raiding the bank account and teasing the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on 'run-out', where production or importing ceased a while ago, or one with the wrong engine.

After all, with fuel prices continuing to be volatile, you don't want to trade in your old gas guzzler for another just as bad.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars will always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.



GO GREEN: Enjoy the space and luxury of a greener big car like the new Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX rather than downsize, but check the higher purchase cost against lower running costs – you might be better off with the conventional Insignia equivalent

On the other hand, review what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax might also favour downsizing to a more efficient motor – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be

tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car.

The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on heavier diesel equivalents.

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Government's scrapheap challenge has taken flight

BY STEVE LOADER

IT WAS a dodgy take-off, but the Government's £2,000-a-go incentive to scrap older cars in return for new ones is now flying.

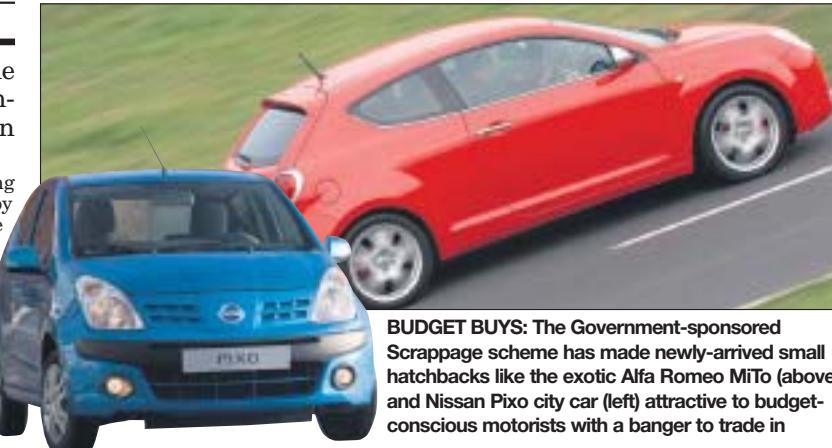
Applications have boomed, prompting fears that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

There is some talk of a top-up donation, but if you are considering swapping your banger then get your new car order in now – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.



BUDGET BUYS: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has made newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and Nissan Pixo city car (left) attractive to budget-conscious motorists with a banger to trade in

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will

have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7,000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air conditioning

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit at £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99, save £20

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To view some other amazing offers visit: www.motorline.co.uk/renault

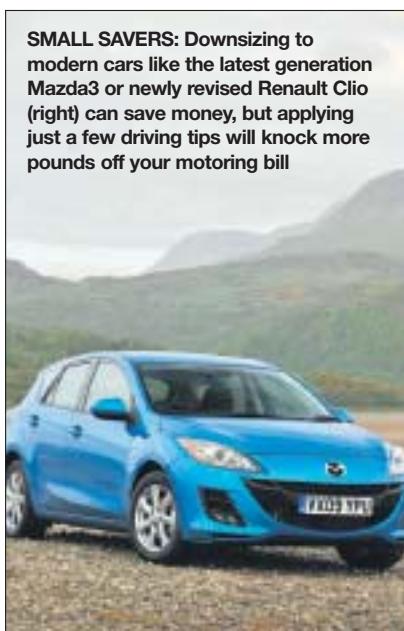
Drive smarter to save more

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

SMALL SAVERS: Downsizing to modern cars like the latest generation Mazda3 or newly revised Renault Clio (right) can save money, but applying just a few driving tips will knock more pounds off your motoring bill



BY STEVE LOADER

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.
- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.
- Accelerate briskly without



racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.
- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.
- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.
- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?
- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.
- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering Personalised Weekender Bags for just £29.99
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September
- Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99, and service and MOT from £119.99
- Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire
- Village Hotelin Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher
- Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10series Plasma when you trade in your old TV
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for just £79.95+vat

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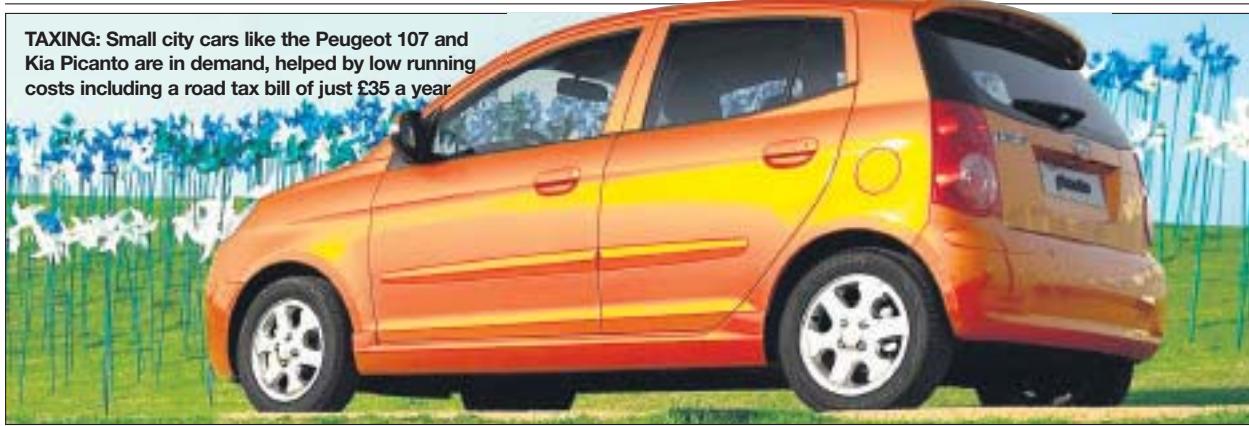
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Duty calls for more savings

BY STEVE LOADER

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

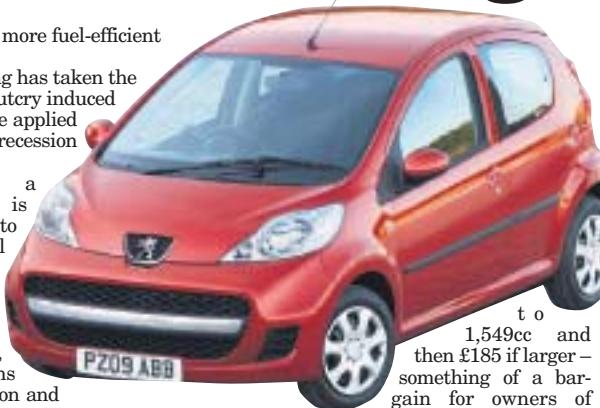
| |
|---|
| Band A (0-100g/km of CO ₂) - £0 |
| Bands B and C (101-120g/km) - £35 |
| Bands D and E (121-140g/km) - £120 |
| Band F (141-150g/km) - £125 |
| Band G (151-160g/km) - £150 |
| Bands H and I (161-180g/km) - £175 |
| Bands J and K (181-225g/km) - £215 |
| Band L (226-255g/km) - £405 |
| Band M (255g/km plus) - £405 |

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up



to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care Petrol or Diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

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- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM
- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS



THE WIRE

BBC2, 11.20pm, Wednesday
From 1.20am, Sunday morning

CRITICS the world over put The Wire up there as one of the finest shows ever to hit TV screens.

Many say it is the best, full-stop.
It's a fine body of work, of that there can be no doubt.

Centering on the complex story of Baltimore's drug-addled streets, action focuses mainly on those peddling the narcotics and those charged with bringing law and order back to the housing projects.

It's a complex, intricate world, as the show exposes the hypocrisy and injustice of life for all people caught up in the tangled web.

As a counterpoint to this, each series delves a little deeper into one specific aspect of that world.

Series one focused on the streets, while the second looked at the city docks and its longshoremen as they set about importing and distributing the white stuff – often at odds with the very core of their blue-collar union values.

Series four looks at the effect on the school system, while five examines the reporting of crime by newspaper the Baltimore Sun.

On BBC Two we are on series three as it tickles the sordid underbelly of politics in Baltimore.

It is a rich and fascinating look at the balances struck and compromises made as the bodies pile up amid brutal violence.

What's special is that this is probably a lot closer to what goes on than many of us would feel comfortable with.

The writers never feel the need to explain every plot nuance, nor do they scrimp on the realism.

'Get it and come along for the ride' is



HARD-HITTING: Crime series The Wire has received many plaudits for its realistic approach

the message and if you can't keep up then just don't bother.

At times touching and at others downright barbaric, it's a *tour de force* that never dips into anything below brilliant.

The Wire deserves its place among the all-time crime greats such as The Sopranos but, as ever, the TV schedulers have done their best to annoy viewers by hiding this away and showing it at different times and dates.

My advice, if you love TV, is to buy yourself the DVD box set, settle down on the sofa and let all five series wash over you in your own time.

If you want a quick taster, dip your toe into the waters via BBC Two to help you decide if you do want to splash out £80-odd of your hard-earned on the whole collection.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

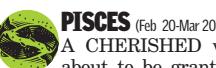
BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19) THE spiritual satisfaction you've been seeking could finally arrive. You've finally come to terms with the fact you need more personal time to pursue your favourite hobbies. If this means setting aside a secluded work area or getting up early to work on a project, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20) A CHERISHED wish is about to be granted and it's all thanks to a supportive friend, business partner, or lover. Don't hesitate to accept their generosity. Nobody realises dreams alone. The strength of having faith in yourself plays an enormous part in your success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20) YOUR spell in the spotlight comes to a successful finale. A boost in status could be coming your way. Nobody could accuse you of being the recipient of random good fortune; your victory is the result of hard work and discipline. Take your bows and then spend more time with friends.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23) AN engagement, wedding, or business deal will go off without a hitch and having someone by your side to stand up for you and support you will make your daily life much easier. If you aim to buy or sell a house or apartment get the help and advice of a professional or lawyer.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23) THINKING about buying or selling property or doing your place up? Whatever your plans might be they will re-establish a comforting security and help you plan more constructively for the future. If a relative plans on getting professional help for a problem give them your support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20) THE results of a personal improvement project are impressive. Thanks to your hard work, you'll be able to expand your horizons in some material way. Travelling, writing, practicing law are all possibilities open to you in one way or another now. You'll never know unless you try.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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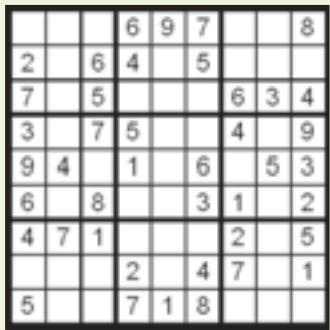
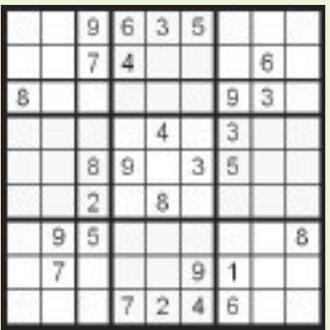
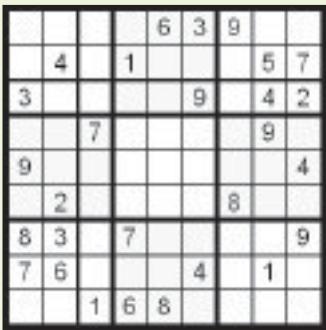
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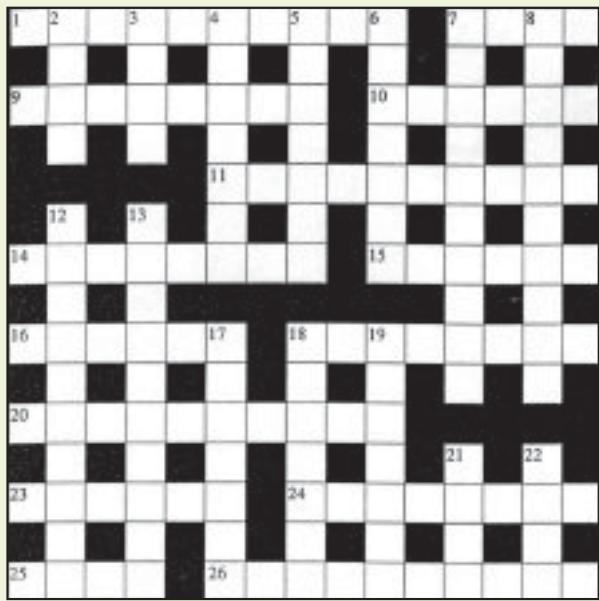


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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY**MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Start too soon in spring hunt eg confused (4,3,3)
 - 7 Use one's teeth when about to cut (4)
 - 9 A cod Anna prepared for low creature (8)
 - 10 The merchant was booked in Italian city (6)
 - 11 Fair and honest transaction by old-fashioned port (6,4)
 - 14 Three-monthly perhaps (8)
 - 15 Leg you injured whilst writing in praise of another (6)
 - 16 Some most affable island (6)
 - 18 Rescue rope found in one's palm (8)
 - 20 Clever with cash that's a wise investment (5-5)
 - 23 Prefer taste that's not left inside (6)
 - 24 Supercilious horseman (8)
 - 25 Describe devil trapping venerable saint (4)
 - 26 Does it have a circle of members? (6,4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Skeletal part of incomplete lunar construction (4)
 - 3 Choose to be a guitar player? (4)
 - 4 Worker's lad personally involved (5-2)
 - 5 Advancing slowly when it isn't steep (7)
 - 6 Overturned vehicle, rear damaged, in northeastern Spain (7)
 - 7 May two ladies have bell-shaped flower? (6,4)
 - 8 Was substituting bartering (10)
 - 12 Coppers Thomas manufactured built to a client's order (6-4)
 - 13 Neutral area at railway terminus? (6,4)
 - 17 Married frenzied lover (7)
 - 18 Design etched on floor-covering first (7)
 - 19 What bird will do at motorway intersection (7)
 - 21 Man having cold drink first (4)
 - 22 Some nutritious items are included in it (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE**QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Leave from work (10)
- 7 US tramp (4)
- 9 Juillet, Bastille Day (8)
- 10 Gaoler (anag.) (6)
- 11 Run-down car (4,6)
- 14 Felled (8)
- 15 Distend (6)
- 16 Part of speech (6)
- 18 Go across (8)
- 20 Steeplechase rider (4-6)
- 23 Encipher (6)
- 24 New (8)
- 25 Gloomy (4)
- 26 Rotting (10)

DOWN

- 2 Cuckoo-pint (4)
- 3 Tub (4)
- 4 Small moth (7)
- 5 Folded (7)
- 6 Readable (7)
- 7 Flying machine (10)
- 8 Sterility (10)
- 12 Chaparral cock (10)
- 13 Dogmatic (10)
- 17 Binge (5-2)
- 18 Escort (4,3)
- 19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
- 21 Record (4)
- 22 Beige (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No94****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD**

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No94

- ACROSS:** 1 Ice-skating 6 Swap 9 Voice 10 Oath 11 Star 13 Light as a feather 14 Exhuming 16 Idiocy 18 Paling 19 Queendom 22 Job satisfaction 24 Milk 25 Smug 26 Ionic 27 Soya 28 Brute force **DOWN:** 1 Involve 2 Eying 3 Kleptomaniac 4 Thousand 5 Notify 7 Watchdog 8 Portray 12 Handkerchief 15 Hillbilly 17 Buffnig 18 Pyjamas 20 Manacle 21 Zimmer 23 Inner.

QUICK SOLUTION No94

- 17 Boondoggle 18 Take out 19 Amytine 21 Beremess 22 Roadster 6 Legible 7 Telecopier 8 Totebag 5 Crested 13 Peremptory 10 Patisseent 22 Encode 24 Original 25 Grey 26 Jockey 23 Expand 16 Advert 18 Traverse 25 Jump 10 Gliber 22 Rusty basket 14 Pleated 15 Quotient 12 Subscript 11 Hobo 9 Outrageous 16 Dumb 19

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It's downhill (nearly) all the way

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

A 300-MILE bicycle ride in the searing summer heat of southern France, with only a bottle of Fanta and a banana for fuel, is few people's idea of a civilised holiday.

Yet touring the Perigueux prefecture of France's Dordogne region for seven days, we would change hotel every couple of nights, our luggage following safely behind in a van.

Heaving our bags into his van, our Headwater rep made it clear that we could stop worrying about unforeseen circumstances. For the next seven days, the only variable was the weather.

The Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling trip has been running for 10 years and pedalled into perfection.

Our detailed itinerary gave a choice of two different routes each day. Depending on our energy levels, and how much fried duck and red wine we'd had the night before, we would cycle anything from 12 to 25 miles per day.

Our rep, sweetly, gave us a real ordnance survey map, but in reality, comprehensive printed instructions with diagrams from Headwater were far too user-friendly to resist.

This part of France is ideal for those new to cycling holidays.

The routes are quiet and made up almost entirely of back roads, well-maintained farm tracks and cycle paths.

There are also plenty of hills of varying difficulties. Once I'd discovered the joy of the cycling up a hill, getting a hit of endorphins and then whooping my way down the other side, there was no stopping me.

After a few days, I found myself looking forward to steep inclines.



REWARD: Pedalling up a steep hill is worth it when a view like this is waiting for you at the top

Free from transport restraints, high on exercise and blessed with perfect weather, we really did feel as though we'd been tapped with the holiday fairy's wand.

In fact, our only real responsibility was to find the hotel marked in the itinerary every other evening. And that wasn't difficult.

Cycling for four hours every day also meant that we felt guiltless about eating plenty of food. We'd happily consume a large dish of pan-fried duck with olives from a roadside restaurant at lunch, before sitting down to four courses in the evening just hours later.

When we needed a break from our saddles, there was usually something a little bit special on the horizon. As well as the countless chateaux, and wonderful restaurants, this area is also the home of Cro-Magnon man, one of the earliest recorded humans.

The site of Lascaux, close to the delightful town of Montignac, is where 17,000-year-old cave paintings were discovered almost 70 years ago. Unfortunately for tourists, these prehistoric images are now carefully protected from carbon-dioxide damage, and only copies are on public display.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Time difference | +One hour |
| Capital | Paris |
| Climate | Temperate |
| Population | 62.5 million |
| Currency | £1 = 1.4 Euros |
| Religion | Catholic |
| Language | French |

Travel details

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Headwater Holidays on a Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling Tour, packages available from May to September from £1,098 to £1,227 per person (child £699 all season) for self-drivers who go by Eurotunnel. Prices for air-rail packages (based on Gatwick-Toulouse by BA) range from £1,199 to £1,299 (child £849 all season).

Tour only prices: £1,049 to £1,179 (child £679).

Singles: add £25 per night

Package includes half-board accommodation, bike hire, local transfers, maps and route notes, bag transport, 24-hour emergency support.

Headwater reservations: 01606 720 033 and www.headwater.com.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Couples forced to stay together by recession

DESPITE the start of an economic recovery the recession is still making life hard for couples wanting to move on after divorce according to family lawyers.

Resolution, which represents 75 family lawyers in Kent, says continuing problems in the housing market are preventing divorcing couples from moving to separate accommodation.

Family lawyer Daniel Bennett, of East Kent Resolution, said: "Selling the family home is often an important step for couples and their families making the transition from one home to two after divorce.

"But with limited mortgage deals, the increase in unemployment, and one in ten homeowners now in negative equity, selling up or moving on is easier said than done for many couples."

To help people in this situation, Resolution is today launching a series of online hints and tips for couples "living apart together" ahead of a national conference on family law in London.

These include trying to agree some ground rules, getting short breaks from one another and playing fair in regard to new partners or relationships.

But most importantly, don't lose heart, no recession lasts forever.

Repossession predictions are not looking so bad

GOOD news has come to those who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments following an analysis of the market by experts in lending.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has cut its repossession forecast as experts say lower interest rates and Government initiatives were helping people stay in their homes.

The group has revised its prediction for reposessions during 2009 to 65,000 from a total of 75,000. But the figure is still the highest for 17 years and nearly two-thirds higher than the 40,000 people who lost their homes in 2008.

The group said rising unemployment would lead to an estimated 360,000 people falling into mortgage arrears of at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding debt during 2009. Although its revised forecast is 15 per cent lower than the previous one, the figure still represents a doubling in the 182,600 of homeowners at this level at the end of last year.

Analysts said record low interest rates were making it easier for households who lost their incomes to keep up with their mortgage, while they also meant people built up arrears more slowly.



Constructive approach to affordable housing

AS PART of the Government's Building Britain's Future plans, Housing Minister John Healey has announced that the construction of thousands of extra homes will begin in a matter of months.

The news comes after a £1.5 billion housing investment was revealed by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Housing Pledge places councils centre-stage and involves building more homes more quickly. It is also aimed at creating thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

Changes to the rules for allocating housing will also give councils a bigger role in meeting the needs of people in their area. The pledge also includes commitments to improve access to social housing by providing tenants with more choice over the properties available, and commitments to clamp down on those cheating the system, so that more properties are available for those who play by the rules.

The cash boost will deliver an additional 20,000 new, affordable, energy efficient homes

■ BY NICK AMES

over the next two years, with a further 10,000 delivered through the private sector.

Councils and housing associations will both have a key role in delivery of the new affordable homes.

The money will also extend the programme to get stalled housing projects back on track and prepare public sector land for construction of new homes as well as provide up to 45,000 new jobs in the construction industry.

Boost

The announcement came the day before Mr Healey outlined proposals to allow councils to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales, as well as their rents.

Mr Healey said: "The Prime Minister's housing pledge is a huge boost to efforts to build the homes the country needs now and in the future. This investment will help fast track construction and I want to see work starting on site within the next few months.

"Alongside the significant increase in hous-

ing stock we will also work with councils to ensure the social housing system is responsive to local priorities and preferences.

"Together, these announcements signal my intention to get local authorities involved in delivering the housing their area needs.

"Councils haven't built significant numbers of houses for a long time, but with this extra cash and an overhaul of the council house funding system I am giving councils the green light to start building more homes.

"And we are putting our money where our mouth is to fund new housing association developments, get mothballed housing projects back on track, and free up public land for more affordable homes.

"In these tough economic times this is also a much needed shot in the arm for the construction industry creating 45,000 new jobs in Britain that will be key to the country making the most of the recovery over the next few years.

"When people see these new homes being built in their communities they need to believe that they or people they know have a fair shot at living in them."

Developer builds bridges with mouse community

HOUSEBUILDER Ward Homes is protecting dormice at its development in Boughton Monchelsea by helping them to safely cross the road.

The dormice were discovered before construction of The Woodlands, a development of one and two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom houses located just off Brishing Lane. Ward Homes has installed a specially constructed bridge, suspended between two telegraph poles, which allows the dormice to cross the road without danger.

Together with the site's ecological contractor, Keystone Environmental, Ward Homes has installed a galvanised mesh cylinder, the most ecological material to use for this construction.

The bridge has been made more attractive to the dormice by being filled with a variety of native climbing plant species, such as honeysuckle. The plants are also encouraged to grow up and along the bridge as a habitat for the mice and to enhance the structure. There is also a large funnel at each end of the bridge to help them find the entrance.

In addition to the bridge, Ward Homes has planted a hedge along Brishing Lane to further develop the dormouse habitat.

Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes, said: "We feel it is of paramount importance to protect and preserve wildlife wherever we develop. Habitat fragmentation is a particular problem for dormice because of their reluctance to cross sections of open ground, so the bridge really is a tremendous benefit for them. It mimics tunnels found in their natural setting and is a safe way for them to travel.

"We choose the locations for all our developments with considerable care and are fully committed to enhancing the surroundings, making the most of natural features, such as mature trees and hedgerows.

"Our planners work closely with councils and the local community to identify sustainable solutions and our homes are consistently built on brownfield sites."

The Woodlands is a development just five miles from Maidstone.

HomeBuy Direct, the Government's scheme to help people move onto and up the property ladder, is available on selected properties at The Woodlands. It gives homebuyers the chance to move in for only 70 per cent of the purchase price.

Ward Homes will match the Government's



SKYWAY: A tunnel filled with climbing plants has been suspended between telegraph poles for the dormice

funding pound for pound in the new venture to provide an equity loan to the homebuyer of up to 30 per cent. The buyer finances the remaining 70 per cent either through a mortgage, a deposit, or a combination of the two.

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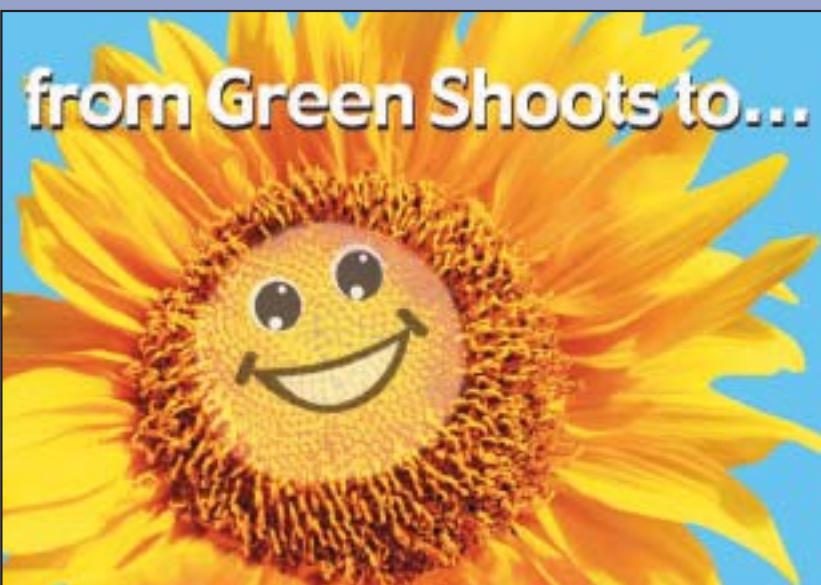


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£107,500

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EYTHORNE

COMING SOON

OIEO £130,000

COMING SOON. Three bedroom semi detached, 2 receptions offered for sale with no chain. In need of modernisation.

WHITFIELD

OIEO £137,500

Two bedroom terrace house with conservatory, central heating, DG, garden, garage. Viewing recommended.

LYDDEN

£145,950

Two bedroom semi detached chalet bungalow, two receptions, utility room, DG, gas central heating, gardens.

ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE

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RIVER



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MOTORS NEWS



Ford dealers make most of Scrappage scheme

FORD'S car business is on the scrap heap, with UK dealers taking an amazing 300 orders daily under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

Buyers get at least £2,000 back if they consign their 10 or more-year-old banger to the crusher in return for buying a new car.

Ford's big seller is the Fiesta, from £8,595 under the scheme with the Ka city car next (pictured right), from £6,595.

Ford says the scheme is also delivering 'conquests' to its dealers; only half of cars surrendered are Fords.



Nissan building on scrap deal to boost profits

NISSAN has picked up the Scrappage ball and run with it by offering a £2,000 minimum trade-in on 8-10-year-old cars as well as 10-year-old bangers targeted by the Government.

And this deal has been extended until September 30, 2009 for customers buying models built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the Qashqai (pictured left), Note and Micra (right) – so it also benefits recessionhit UK PLC directly.

Under either scheme, a new car can cost as little as £5,995, in the case of the Micra supermini.



Fiat lifts lid off remake of classic 50s open-top

FIAT has paid further homage to its original 1950s 500 Nuovo by launching a chic convertible version of the current and retro-styled 'Cinquecento'.

And the UK – a major market for open tops – is the world's first to get the new Fiat 500C, a recycling of the 1957 fabric roof Fiat 500.

While using the original's roll-top canvas roof format though, the newcomer is a thoroughly modern interpretation, but commands a £3,000 premium over its hatchback sister, with prices from £11,300 (1.2 Pop 500C).



SOUND KOREA MOVE: The new Hyundai i20 may not match the excellent Ford Fiesta but it is superb value for money and comes with the usual five-year warranty

Supermini highlights advances by Hyundai

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI i20

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Green rating | ★★★★★ |

full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from £8,195.

Under the Government sponsored Scrappage scheme for owners of cars ten or more years old; qualifying i20 buyers can also save some £3,000 by trading in a banger.

But they may miss the 'wow' factor of buying a more modern motor for the i20's chassis balances comfort and sporty, yet falls short of the driver feedback of sophisticated rivals like the Fiesta.

And the interior is robust with nice touches, but even lively upholstery in our mid-range Comfort trim test car failed to lift a slightly dour atmosphere, though you do get a USB link for your MP3 player/iPod at this level.

Of the three engine options, discount the 75bhp 1.4-litre diesel tested here (from £10,145); the front wheels can scrabble under initial acceleration in wet conditions, yet it runs out of puff later and generally feels heavy and lumpy in such a small car.

It also adds £1,000 to the price of the equivalent 99bhp 1.4-litre petrol, while the even cheaper (by £500) 77bhp 1.2 petrol is peppy, economical and easily the best drive.



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Chevrolet range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100 km), urban 40.9 (6.9) to 26.4 (10.7), extra urban 67.3 (4.2) to 38.7 (7.3), combined 54.3 (5.2) to 32.8 (8.6) the official co2 emission is 119 to 225 g/km.

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Motability

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CHEVROLET

USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

RECESSION BUSTING/COUPÉS

STILL want fun at a recession-busting price? How about our pick of affordable coupés? They all cut a dash for a lot less cash, but each offers a different approach ranging from the no-nonsense Coupé from Korea's Hyundai, through Citroën's Gallic take on the three-door 'coupé' cum family hatchback format to a classic yet still attainable thoroughbred from Italy's Alfa Romeo. None should break the bank on running costs either, especially as two are available with diesel power, and yet all deliver the rewarding drive expected of a coupé.

ALFA GT



THERE is the sense that Alfa Romeo's dark days of rusting and reliability problems are gone, yet doubts remain in the minds of some used car buyers – good news for anyone prepared to take a calculated risk on the sporty yet practical GT. Slinky styling disguises what is actually a spacious 2+2 with a decent hatchback, plus a range of engines from sensible to mad, including some tweaked versions of smooth and refined diesels courtesy of Alfa's Fiat parent.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Quality | ★★★★★ |

CITROËN C4



CITROËN really needed to pull off something special when it launched its current family hatch. So the C4 is a far better car than the dull Xsara it replaced and the three-door 'coupé' has one of the most individual looks on the road. Rakish and racy lines are abruptly curtailed by a chopped and glassy rear end. Balancing such curvaceous yet brutal styling, the C4 offers affordable sportiness, handling and riding well without the irritating quirks of old-style Citroëns.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Quality | ★★★★★ |

HYUNDAI COUPÉ



ONCE Hyundai sorted out the glitches of early generations, the brand's 'budget four-seat coupé' proposition was bound to take off. The latest version is beefier and smarter and confirms what great value the Korean sportster is. The chassis cannot rival key competitors, but delivers lots of fun for a modest outlay. For 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds, there is also the 2.7 V6 version and you are sure to find many Coupés with some of Hyundai's generous five-year warranty still intact.

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Looks and image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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MidKent College

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Salary - £29,559-£36,630

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We are expanding our HR team to include professional, CIPD qualified HR Advisers, who will strengthen our provision of advice and guidance for managers and staff. We are looking to appoint experienced professionals who can support organisational change processes and have good knowledge of employment law, combined with strong generalist experience and knowledge in key areas of HR delivery. This will include employee relations, performance management, recruitment, workforce planning and organisational development.

Our strong customer service focus requires excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to engage with people at all levels of the organisation, working to drive, develop and implement new HR policies and initiatives that support the delivery of 'top quality' education and training.

For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e-mail caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

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ref: HK260

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PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS



ref: HK280



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Closing date: Friday 17 July 2009

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For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 884402.

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Lecturer in Biology

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

Lecturer in Sport

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health Care

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

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Part Time – Maidstone Campus

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Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

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The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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09/36

Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

09/37

Lecturer Performing Arts -Drama and Musical Theatre

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

06/182

Lecturer Chemistry

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

09/39

Lecturer Plumbing and Gas Fitting

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S/HE

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S/NT

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S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/NT

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

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Play work

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Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

S/TD/BT

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Beauty Therapy

Various hours available, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

S/RA

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08/22

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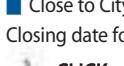
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Century gives Sandwich something to Singh about after beating Oystermen

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Kent League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

AN UNBEATEN century from Vishaul Singh helped Sandwich Town on their way to a narrow two-wicket win against Whitstable at the weekend.

Singh crashed 115 not to see his side over the line with just an over to spare. The home side won the toss and put the opposition in to bat at The Butts and the decision looked a good one when Craig Spanton dismissed Max Campbell (1) and Sam Denly (4) with just seven runs on the board. Peter Eames hit 21 to steady the ship until he was run out. Craig Snell was

then introduced first change and had the Oystermen reeling at 58 for 6 when he removed Nadir Rasheed for ten and Ben Trott for one.

Whitstable's Stuart Sinclair hit back for the visitors, putting on an invaluable 117-run partnership with James Mills. Sinclair went on to register an unbeaten 95 from 105 balls, but a spell from Jack Bradley saw him pick up two wickets, including Mills for a valiant 26 as Whitstable scored 183 for 8.

In reply, Sandwich also found the wicket a tough one to negotiate and slumped to 95 for 6 with Whitstable opening bowler Jason Logan in inspired form, claiming 3 for 24.

Rhys Jones managed to stick around and stay with Singh who crashed 115 not out to help steer Sandwich close to their total. However, Whitstable refused to give up and when Josh Gould picked up the wickets of Jones for 22 and James Bolt (4), the game was back in the balance. But Craig Spanton hit 16 at number nine to help Singh cross the line.



TOP KNOCK: Vishaul Singh struck an unbeaten 115 to help Sandwich to victory

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Bromley Common 1st XI v Sibton Park 1st XI

SIBTON Park were edged out by 11 runs in a low scoring game at Bromley Common.

The home side were all out for 182 with Steven Rowe, Tim Smith and Andy Allon all among the wickets for Sibton Park. Allon then went on to hit 46 at the top of the innings for the visitors but he ran out of partners as Sibton's batters found the going tough against a rampant Bromley attack. Ben Allon (35) and Steven Rowe (38) gave the innings late impetus, but when they were out the game was over for Park.

Bromley Common

| | Runs | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Rob Williams | ct Carberry b Rowe | 24 |
| Jay Mammal | ct Hobbs b Lewis | 8 |
| Robbie Harris | lbw b Allon | 29 |
| Jody Mason | lbw b Rowe | 0 |
| Julian Roach | st Hobbs b Allon | 45 |
| Ben Cole | ct Hobbs b Smith | 45 |
| Jamie Walker | ct Hickmott b Smith | 16 |
| Lee Hall | b Rowe | 32 |
| David Luxford | lbw b Smith | 6 |
| Greg Robey | not out | 4 |
| Matt Walker | ct Rowe b Smith | 2 |
| Extras | (2lb 10w 2nb) | 14 |
| Total | (all out, 49.4 overs) | 182 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|--------------|------|---|----|---|
| Steven Rowe | 13 | 5 | 40 | 3 |
| Trevor Lewis | 10 | 3 | 26 | 1 |
| Sam Newman | 3 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| Andy Allon | 9 | 1 | 45 | 2 |
| Tim Smith | 14.4 | 2 | 50 | 4 |

Sibton Park

| | Runs | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----|
| George Leadbetter | ct Harris b Walker | 10 |
| Andy Allon | lbw b Walker | 46 |
| Jamie Keeler | run out | 1 |
| Ben Carberry | lbw b Mannall | 0 |
| Steve Hickmott | lbw b Mannall | 0 |
| Ben Allon | ct Hall b Robey | 35 |
| Steve Hobbs | ct Hall b Robey | 12 |
| Steven Rowe | ct Harris b Mannall | 38 |
| Sam Newman | not out | 13 |
| Tim Smith | b Mannall | 3 |
| Trevor Lewis | b Mannall | 1 |
| Extras | (4lb 3w 5nb) | 12 |
| Total | (all out, 48 overs) | 171 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|--------------|----|---|----|---|
| Matt Walker | 10 | 3 | 32 | 1 |
| Greg Robey | 13 | 2 | 51 | 2 |
| Jay Mammal | 13 | 1 | 38 | 5 |
| Jamie Walker | 9 | 3 | 37 | 1 |
| Lee Hall | 3 | 1 | 9 | 0 |

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Old Brockleians 1st XI v Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare 1st XI

BETTES enjoyed a comfortable victory after winning the toss and putting the opposition in to bat. With the wicket offering encouragement to the quick bowling of Andy McNicholas and Jamie Towe, Old Brocks lost an early wicket before Danny Hazelton (17) and Paul Reeves (40) dug in to ride out the early threat.

The wickets began falling but really went into free fall as the last five batsmen fell without scoring in two overs.

In reply Bettles made steady progress, losing Chris Garton, but Clive Towe (28 not out) and Liam Collins (72 not out) eased Bettles over the finishing line for an emphatic win.

Old Brockleians

| | Runs | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----|
| Danny Hazelton | ct & b Jones | 17 |
| Ainsley Dummer | ct A McNicholas | 14 |
| Paul Reeves | ct Fletcher b C Towe | 40 |
| Ollie Barnes | b Jones | 0 |
| Manesh Karunala | st Joffy Towe b C Towe | 11 |
| Braam Alberts | ct Joffy Towe b Jamie Towe | 20 |
| Sam Gardiner | ct Garton b M McNicholas | 14 |
| Eddie Holder | c & b Jamie Towe | 0 |
| James Bates | not out | 0 |
| Andy Cripps | b M McNicholas | 0 |
| Devon Carr | ct Joffy Towe b M McNicholas | 0 |
| Extras | (8b 3lb 5w) | 16 |
| Total | (all out, 38 overs) | 132 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|--------------------|----|---|----|---|
| Andrew McNicholas | 11 | 2 | 42 | 1 |
| Jamie Towe | 8 | 2 | 16 | 2 |
| Derek Towe | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Clive Towe | 12 | 2 | 33 | 2 |
| Martin Jones | 5 | 0 | 29 | 2 |
| Michael McNicholas | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |

Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare

| | Runs | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Clive Towe | not out | 28 |
| Chris Garton | ct Barnes b Cripps | 8 |
| Liam Collins | not out | 72 |
| Jamie Towe | did not bat | |
| Andrew McNicholas | did not bat | |
| Joffy Towe | did not bat | |
| Derek Towe | did not bat | |
| Michael McNicholas | did not bat | |
| Darren Fletcher | did not bat | |
| Martin Jones | did not bat | |
| Edward Dadd | did not bat | |
| Extras | (8b 14w 3nb) | 25 |
| Total | (1 wicket, 30 overs) | 133 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|----------------|---|---|----|---|
| James Bates | 8 | 2 | 21 | 0 |
| Andy Cripps | 6 | 0 | 21 | 1 |
| Sam Gardiner | 3 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| Devon Carr | 6 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Ollie Barnes | 4 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| Ainsley Dummer | 2 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Eddie Holder | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |



KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Deal Victoria 1st XI v Cowdrey 1st XI

DEAL Victoria put their season back on track with a convincing win over league leaders Cowdrey.

Put in to bat, Vics lost Mark Birkett and Andrew Furness early but skipper Matthew Carley led the way with 102, and more importantly partnerships where formed to help them to 280 for 8.

In reply, Scott MacNamara and Stephen Moran bowled with great control and the frustration began to show and when Charles Mailli and Graham MacNamara came into the attack wickets fell steadily. Scott MacNamara was the pick of the bowlers with 3 for 34 as Vics won by 145 runs.

Deal Victoria & Barns Close

| | Runs | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Andrew Furness | run out | 12 |
| Mark Birkett | ct Lewis b Jones | 4 |
| Charles Mailli | st Roberts b Sullivan | 56 |
| Matthew Carley | ct Fenwick b Warner | 102 |
| Stephen Moran | ct Roberts b Marshall | 17 |
| Sam Kilip | ct Roberts b Jones | 20 |
| Andrew Miller | b Warner | 30 |
| Robbie Brannan | not out | 5 |
| Scott MacNamara | ct Marshall b Jones | 4 |
| Ben Martin | not out | 0 |
| Graham MacNamara | did not bat | |
| Extras | (10b 13lb 12w) | 30 |
| Total | (8 wickets, 46 overs) | 280 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|-----------------|----|---|----|---|
| Rob Fenwick | 9 | 3 | 24 | 0 |
| Chris Jones | 12 | 2 | 87 | 3 |
| Phil Sullivan | 6 | 0 | 35 | 1 |
| Sebastian Lewis | 8 | 0 | 47 | 0 |
| Gary Marshall | 3 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Glen Warner | 8 | 1 | 20 | 2 |

Cowdrey

| | Runs | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Andrew Hammond | b S McNamara | 15 |
| Lewis Wright | ct Furness b S McNamara | 4 |
| Glen Warner | b Mailli | 23 |
| Jack Southwart | ct Moran b S McNamara | 23 |
| Jonathan Owen | ct Moran b McNamara | 13 |
| Chris Jones | st Furness b McNamara | 7 |
| Sebastian Lewis | b Mailli | 2 |
| Andy Roberts | c & b G McNamara | 29 |
| Gary Marshall | not out | 13 |
| Rob Fenwick | not out | 1 |
| Phil Sullivan | did not bat | |
| Extras | (1lb 4w) | 5 |
| Total | (8 wickets, 46 overs) | 135 |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|------------------|----|---|----|---|
| Scott MacNamara | 12 | 1 | 34 | 3 |
| Stephen Moran | 8 | 2 | 31 | 0 |
| Charles Mailli | 12 | 3 | 41 | 2 |
| Graham MacNamara | 8 | 3 | 21 | 3 |
| Ben Martin | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Sam Kilip | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Robbie Brannan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Photo: JOHN KAPCO

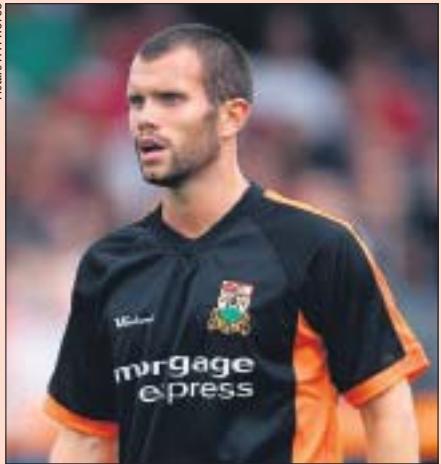
SCOREBOARD

Whitstable

| | Runs | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----|
| Max Campbell | b Spanton | 1 |
| Peter Eames | run out | 21 |
| Sam Denly | b Spanton | 4 |
| Nadir Rasheed | ct Bradley b Snell | 10 |
| Stuart Sinclair | not out | 95 |
| James Loader | lbw b Spanton | 3 |
| Ben Trott | Snell | 1 |
| James Mills | b Bradley | 26 |
| Josh Gould | b Bradley | 4 |
| Jason Logan | not out | 0 |
| Duncan Hardy | did not bat | |
| Extras (3b 5lb 7w 3nb) | 18 | |
| Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) | 183 | |

Bowlers

| | 0 | M | R | W |
|---------------|----|---|----|---|
| Craig Spanton | 15 | 5 | 40 | 3 |
| Jack Bradley | 10 | 2 | 41 | 2 |
| Craig Snell | 15 | 2 | 53 | 2 |



TRANSFER TARGET: Former Barnet striker Adam Birchall could be the next player to join the thriving Whites this summer

Hess targets ex-Barnet ace

FOOTBALL

ANDY Hessenthaler is hoping to hold talks with striker Adam Birchall this week in a bid to sign the former Barnet forward.

The Dover boss is looking for a striker to add to his side's fire power and has earmarked Birchall, who was released by the League Two club in May, as a potential target.

The 24-year-old, from Maidstone, began his career as a trainee at Arsenal and has more than 100 Football League appearances to his name.

After leaving the Gunners, Birchall joined Mansfield Town before signing for Barnet, where he scored 17 goals in two seasons at Underhill.

With Frannie Collin, Shaun Welford and Lee Browning already signed up, Hessenthaler believes Birchall could significantly add to his attacking options.

He told Yourdover: "Adam is certainly one of the players we will be talking to. I have been speaking to him recently and I have known him for a while now."

"We know all about his ability and he has shown what he can do in the Football League."

The club made their third signing of the summer last week with AFC Wimbledon midfielder Tom Davis putting pen to paper in a one-year deal.

The Whites will begin their Blue Square South campaign with a trip to Maidenhead on August 8, followed by consecutive home games against Bishops Stortford and Dorchester Town.

CATCH OF THE DAY



Gills head to town to help bolster coffers

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

FOLKESTONE Invicta will receive a welcome boost to their troubled finances this weekend with a rearranged visit from Gillingham as the pre-season schedule gets underway.

The League One side were due to send a side of fringe players and youngsters later this month – as they did last summer – but circumstances have now changed. The Gills were due to kick-off their pre-season this weekend against Tonbridge Angels but with concerns over their pitch at Longmead they cancelled the fixture.

The Seasiders, who came within hours of going into administration last week, are set to reap the benefits. Mark Stimson will now bring his first-team to the Buzzlinses Stadium, which should attract a big crowd for what is the Gills' first game since winning the League Two play-off final at Wembley in May.

Mark Patterson, head of Gillingham's Centre of Excellence and a former Invicta assistant boss, was delighted to be able to help out one of his former clubs.

He said: "We had a gap in our fixtures and we were aware of the difficulties Folkestone



BOOST: Folkestone Invicta's coffers will be swelled this weekend with a rearranged friendly against a Gillingham first-team which should include star players like Andy Barcham (right)

are facing, hopefully this will make a few quid for them. It's nice we can do something to help them out.

"It does hurt when you see one of your former clubs in trouble because down in the non-league 90 per cent of players do it for the love of the game. This is a chance to do our bit and hopefully with the first-team coming down it'll be a decent crowd."

The game will help ease the club's short-term cash flow problems while they continue talks with a potential new investor.

Last week, director Bob Dix revealed to Yourshepway that administration had been at least temporarily averted by the emergence of a new figure, but nothing concrete has yet been agreed.

Saturday's game kicks off at 3pm.

Mackerel showing in clearer waters

By TONY HILLS, a keen beach and boat angler with 50 years' experience fishing Dungeness and District and vice-chairman of the Dungeness Angling Association

WITH the water clearing and the 'May' water disappearing we can at last move into summer. Mackerel are beginning to show in the west bay as the water clears and calms.

PIRATE SPRINGS AND LITTLESTONE: Great high water venue for bass, eels, and flatties on lugworm and fish baits.

DUNGENESS: Depending on the wind direction, back of the boats will fish for bass and early sole. The Dungeness beach and the back of the power station could be the best spot for bass through low water and the rise. Sand eel and worm baits tipped with fish should be best.

DENGE MARSH: If we have a light south westerly it should fish well including some decent sole, if they can get past the nets, coming on a rising tide.

GALLOWAYS: Depending on the tide, this venue provides superb evening fishing great for bass and the odd smooth hound as well as mackerel. Try using sand eels or 'blues' for a change. Check the firing times.

JURYS GAP: On a rising tide and over high water for bass eels and mackerel – they were caught there last week – and as the summer progresses we might see the odd black bream at range.

BOAT FISHING: Lots of mackerel about, otherwise boat fishing pretty poor except out on the banks. The Bullock bank is producing plaice to 4lb, good dabs and black bream. We are still waiting for the water to clear down below.

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